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FROM

Prof J. H. Ropes

THE
SOCIABLE STORY-TELLER.

BEING A SELECTION OF

NEW ANECDOTES, HUMOROUS TALES, AMUS-
ING STORIES, AND WITTICISMS;

CALCULATED

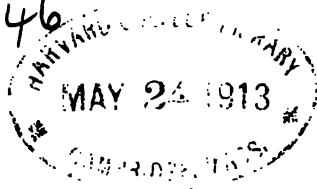
TO ENTERTAIN AND ENLIVEN

THE

SOCIAL CIRCLE.

BOSTON:
JAMES FRENCH,
78 Washington Street.
1846.

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Wm. H. Hooper
Cambridge

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P R E F A C E .

IN society each one plays his part. The man who wishes to make himself agreeable, should possess a fund of choice and amusing anecdotes, for the entertainment and instruction of that circle in which he moves.

There are individuals who, by the constant repetition of a few old anecdotes, render themselves exceedingly tiresome ; and there are others who, having none to relate, render themselves still more so. But those who have a varied and numerous collection from which to choose,—whose minds are enriched with facts relative to men and manners,—such facts being connected with humorous incidents, or interesting associations,—seldom fail of making themselves agreeable, in whatever situation they may be placed. None are more

entertaining, — none more welcome in society, — than those who are able to draw from the store-house of memory short and pertinent stories, which combine amusement with instruction, like those contained in the present volume.

Humor is, unhappily, too often allied with indelicacy. This connection the publisher has endeavored to sunder, by selecting from the unpublished treasures of the past the richest and rarest gems of chaste wit and pure morality.

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THE
SOCIABLE STORY-TELLER.

THE SCULPTOR'S MODEL.

WILLIAM COUSTON, a celebrated sculptor, was not held in such high estimation as he deserved. A rich "parvenu" called upon him, one day, and desired him to execute some grotesque figures, suitable for a chimney-piece. The sculptor, astonished at the request, coldly replied, "I will do so, provided you will sit as a model."

THE JESUIT'S PRIDE.

The Jesuit Neitard, confessor of Queen Anne, being requested by a Spanish nobleman to yield him the preference, answered : "You ought, sir, rather to show me respect ; since I have, every day, your God in my hands, and your Queen at my feet."

ENGLISH KINGS AND QUEENS.

Madame de Maintenon was once in a company, where the remark was made, that the Queens of England governed better than the Kings. "It is true," said she, "and for this reason:—men govern under the reign of Queens, and women under that of Kings."

AVARICE.

A commander of Malta, very avaricious, had two pages, who once complained that they had no shirts. He called his major-domo — "Tell the wife of my farmer to sow some hemp; when it is grown, let her spin it, and make shirts for these little dandies." The pages laughed. "Ah! you young rascals, if you are so happy as to laugh, you may as well be without shirts;" and he countermanded his orders.

THE MISER'S OFFERING.

The Abbe Regnier, Secretary of the French Academy, carried his hat around during an assembly, for each member to contribute a

piece of money, in order to make up a common fund. Not perceiving that the President, Rose, a very avaricious man, had put his share into the hat, he passed it to him a second time. The President assured him that he had made his offering. "I believe, and yet I did not see," said the Abbé. "I saw," said Fontenelle, "and yet I did not believe."

BIRDS UNDERSTANDING LATIN.

A very stupid doctor, of Milan, fancied that birds flew, not at the sound of a voice, but at the sense of the words uttered. He one day had the curiosity to accompany a bird-catcher, with nets, for the purpose of proving his favorite theory. Just as a large flock were about descending into the nets, the doctor shouted loudly, from his place of concealment, in Latin, "You'll be caught, my fine fellows." The birds, of course, were alarmed, and flew away. When the enraged bird-catcher sternly rebuked the doctor, the latter replied, "Really, I did not believe that the birds understood Latin."

CORPULENCE.

Dr. Cheyne, and a certain Mr. Tantley, were known as the most corpulent men in the county of Somerset. One day Cheyne asked Tantley, what made him so melancholy. "I was thinking," replied the other, "how difficult it will be to carry us to the grave, when we are dead." "Oh! do n't be troubled about that," said Cheyne; "I know eight strong men, who can manage me. I suppose as many horses will be able to drag you along, slowly."

THE OLD DOMESTIC.

The odd Duchess de Bouillon, calling upon an acquaintance, was obliged to wait a long time at the gate, before any one appeared. At length an aged domestic, with slow steps and trembling head, came, and with a feeble voice said, that his mistress was not in. The Duchess, disappointed and displeased for having been so long delayed in vain, replied, "If you succeed in crawling back to your mistress, before death overtakes you, tell her that the Duchess de Bouillon has leisurely examined the outside of her house, and pronounces it faultless."

.

THE DETERMINED SUICIDE.

A domestic of M. Pennuyer attempted to drown himself. His master, perceiving him, drew him from the river, and ordered one of his fellow-servants to keep watch over him, and prevent a second attempt. The unhappy fellow, being unable to get at the water, hung himself in the apartment where he was confined. The master, on entering the room, was surprised at the sight, and severely reproached the other for permitting it. The servant answered ; " Forgive me, sir ; I concluded that he was hanging himself up there to dry." •

THE IGNORANT REGARDED AS A SLAVE.

A certain man wished that his son should be instructed in the school of Aristippus. The philosopher demanded fifty drachms. " It is exorbitant," exclaimed the father ; " that amount would purchase a slave." " Very well," replied Aristippus, " purchase the slave, and you will then have two."

THE BORROWED COUNTENANCE.

A Yankee comedian, demanding of the manager his salary, represented to him that he was on the point of starvation. The manager, observing his full and florid countenance, replied that his face belied him. "You are mistaken, sir," replied the comedian; "this face is not mine; I owe it to my landlord, who has given me credit for the last six months."

THE POINT OF INTERROGATION.

"It is well known that Pope was quite small and deformed. Once, while Lord Hyde was disputing with him, on some literary subject, the former said, with contempt, "You pretend to literature, and yet I think you scarcely know what is an interrogation point." "I beg your pardon," replied the Lord; "it is a small figure, crooked and hump-backed, which sometimes asks impertinent questions."

THE DISSIPATED NEPHEW.

A young man, who had dissipated his fortune by misconduct, hearing that his uncle was

to entertain his friends, called on him at the hour of repast. After taking his seat at the table, he said to his uncle, "How could you, uncle, have procured so many delicacies at this season?" "If I had known that you were coming," replied the uncle, "you would have found something else." "What would that have been?" "You would have found the door shut."

RETALIATION.

A Turkish slater, being at work on the roof of a house, fell into the street, upon a man, whom he killed, without any serious injury to himself. The son of the deceased caused him to be arrested, and conducted to the Cadi. The slater, confessing the accident, stated that he would willingly afford the son a chance to retaliate upon him. "Ascend to the roof, where I was," said he to the son; "I will place myself where your father was; then you may fall upon me, and kill me if you can."

SENSITIVENESS OF XERXES.

Xerxes, regarding the large army which he had raised against the Greeks, was seen to

shed tears. One of his officers asked the reason. "In seeing so many thousand soldiers," replied Xerxes, "I was thinking, that one hundred years hence not one of them would be alive; and on this account I wept." "Well," said Artaban, "since it is not in your power to prolong their lives, you should endeavor to make them as happy as possible."

THE BLIND MAN'S STRATAGEM.

A blind man had five hundred guineas, which he buried in his garden; but a neighbor, who saw him, dug them up, and carried them away. The blind man, not finding his money, suspected the one who had taken it. He accordingly visited him, under pretence of asking advice. He said that he had one thousand guineas, — half of them being buried in a safe place, — and he wished to know if it would be a good plan to put the remaining half with them. The neighbor advised him to do so, and hastened to bring back the stolen guineas, in the hope of gaining the thousand. But the blind man, having recovered his money, carried it home, and, calling on his neighbor, said to him: "Friend, the blind often see clearer than those who have eyes."

PRESENCE OF MIND.

Maan Benzaid, king of Arabia, took one hundred prisoners in battle, whom he ordered to be beheaded. One of them, throwing himself at the feet of the conqueror, begged and obtained a little water to quench his thirst. "My comrades," said he, "are no less thirsty than myself." He obtained also for them the same favor. When they had all drank, the young man said : "We have now become your guests, my lord. Hospitality is sacred in Arabia ; you cannot order us to be slain now." The king admired the young man's presence of mind, and revoked the sentence of death.

THE CUNNING TRAVELLER.

A traveller, arriving at an inn during very cold weather, found a fire in the kitchen,—the only one in the house,—and that was so completely surrounded by people, that he could not manage to get near enough to warm himself. He immediately ordered the hostler, in a loud voice, to give six dozens of oysters to his horse. The hostler remarked, that a horse would not eat oysters. "Do as I order you,"

said the traveller, "and you will see if he does not eat them." The oysters were accordingly carried out, and all the company ran to the stable, to see how a horse would eat oysters. The traveller, then, being left alone before the fire, took care to secure the best seat. The hostler soon returned, to say that the horse, as he had supposed, would not eat oysters. "Very well," said the traveller, "bring them here, and I will eat them."

ÆSOP'S WISDOM.

Æsop was sold to a slave-merchant, who, soon after his purchase, undertook the voyage to Ephesus, for the purpose of disposing of all those which he owned. Each slave was obliged to carry a burden. Æsop took the heaviest, which was a large basket of provisions. His companions concluded that he was a simpleton; but, after dinner, his basket became much lighter; after supper, still more so; and, on the following day, Æsop had an empty basket to carry.

JUNOT AND THE CANNON BALL.

During the erection of one of the first batteries which Bonaparte, on his arrival at Toulon, directed against the English, in this memorable siege, he asked if there was a sergeant or a corporal present, who knew how to write. A man left the ranks, and wrote, at the Emperor's dictation, upon the bastion. The note was just finished, when a cannon ball fell near the place where they were, and the paper was covered with dust. "Good," said the soldier, "I shall have no need of sand." This remark, and the coolness with which it was made, attracted the attention of Napoleon, and made the fortune of the sergeant, who afterwards became the Duke d'Abrantes.

THE MASTER OF THE PARISH.

As a village school-master, lame and bandy-legged, went hobbling along, upon his staff, to the school-house, he met a gentleman, who, having stopped to regard him, asked his name and his means of living. "My name," answered he, "is Flogger, and I am the master of yonder parish." "How can you be the

master of the parish ? ” asked the gentleman. “ I am the master of the children of the parish,” said the pedagogue ; “ the children are masters of their mothers ; the mothers of their husbands ; and, consequently, I am the master of the whole parish.”

A DUEL FOUGHT WITH PILLS.

An apothecary, who had never fired a pistol nor drawn a sword, was once provoked to fight a duel, by an officer. He went to the appointed place of meeting, and remarking to his opponent that he did not know how to fight, told him that he had another way of arranging the matter. He then took from his pocket a box of pills, and taking out two of them, said to the officer, “ As you are a man of honor, I know that you desire to take no advantage of me. Here are two pills ; one of them composed of the most deadly poison, the other harmless. If each of us swallows one of them, the contest will be equal. Please to choose.” It is needless to add, that the whole affair was terminated with shouts of laughter.

THE PASTRY COOK OF NUREMBERG.

A German poet, having written a gastronomic song, upon the pastry work of one of the best pastry cooks in Nuremberg, the latter thought that he could not better show his gratitude than by sending him a pie. The poet was at first delighted with his meal ; but in finishing the last morsel, he perceived that the paper upon which the pie had been cooked, contained a copy of the song in which the pastry cook's talents had been praised. Furious, he ran to the man, and reproached him for his impertinence. " Ah ! sir," said the artist, " why this passion ? I have only followed your example ; you have made a song upon my pies, and I have made a pie upon your song."

THE COXCOMB DISCOMFITED.

A peasant, while driving through the streets a load of fagots, cried out, " Take care, take care," in order that he might not injure any one. A coxcomb, thinking it beneath his dignity to get out of the way, was struck by the carriage wheel, and his coat very much torn.

In a great passion, he caused the peasant to be brought before a justice of the peace. The poor man, being interrogated, answered nothing. "Are you dumb, my friend?" asked the magistrate. "No," interrupted the complainant, "he plays the mute now, because he cannot defend himself; but when he ran against me, this morning, he cried out so loudly 'Take care,' that you might have heard him three miles off." "Why, then," said the justice, "did you not take care?"

THE BRITISH LION.

At the commencement of the Revolution, a threatening proclamation from the king of England caused some excitement in Philadelphia. A young lady of that city was asked if the roaring of the British Lion did not frighten her. "Not at all," replied she, "I have learned in Natural History, that when this animal is the most alarmed, he roars the loudest."

MOLIERE.


Molière, while travelling in Auvergne, became unwell, and his attendants proposed to send for a celebrated city physician. "No! no!" said Molière, "he is too eminent; call the village surgeon; he will not have confidence enough to kill me."

A NEW ORDER IN ARCHITECTURE.

An Englishman was once observed regarding with great attention the front of a convent in Switzerland. A monk addressed him, and remarked that it was of the "Corinthian order." "You astonish me," said the Englishman, "I thought it was the order of St. Bernard."

THE RIGHT MODE OF DESTROYING ENEMIES.

The Emperor Sigismund, being at one time reproved by his prime minister for admitting to his court his captured enemies, instead of destroying them, is said to have replied, "Do I not most effectually destroy my enemies, in making them my friends?"



THE SELF-CENSURE OF CATO.

Cato, the Censor, was once heard to say, that he repented of but three things, viz. for having spent a day without learning something of importance; for having confided a secret to his wife; and, thirdly, for having traveled by water when he could have traveled by land.

INCORRUPTIBILITY.

During the American Revolution, when General Reed was President of Congress, the English government offered him a considerable sum to desert the American cause. "Tell the king of England," said the General to the messenger who brought the proposal, "that he is not rich enough to buy me."

FALCONET'S PRESCRIPTION.

The skilful physician, Falconet, having been called to see a lady who fancied herself sick, and who, in answer to his inquiries, admitted that she ate, drank, and slept well, and had all the signs of perfect health, — "Very good," said the doctor, "I can prescribe a medicine which will remove all those symptoms."

SALUTING ACQUAINTANCES.

A plagiarist, before publishing a tragedy, requested the opinion of Piron. At the end of each sentence, Piron took off his hat and bowed. These frequent movements surprised the author, who inquired why he did so. "Oh!" replied Piron, "I always salute my acquaintances when I meet them."

VOLTAIRE.

J. B. Rousseau, having recited to Voltaire his "Ode to Posterity," said to him, "Well! what do you think of it." "My dear friend," said Voltaire, "I fear that your package will never reach its address."

SPARTAN BRAVERY.

Leonidas commanded three hundred Spartans at the Straits of Thermopylæ. All were slain, excepting one only, who was afterwards obliged to leave his native city, where he was regarded as a traitor to his country.

PATRIOTISM.

When the English were in possession of Boston, at the commencement of the Revolutionary War, Washington, for the purpose of driving out the enemy, consulted Congress as to the propriety of bombarding the city. John Hancock presided at the time. A member proposed that the President should first give his opinion, as he was deeply interested. "Gentlemen," said this patriot, "all the property which I possess is in Boston; yet I should rejoice to see the city reduced to ashes, if by that means, the English should be driven from the country."

NAPOLEON.

When Napoleon was but a subaltern, a Russian officer conceitedly remarked in his presence, that the Russians fought for glory, and the French for money. "You are right," replied Napoleon, "all strive for that which they do not possess."

THE FORCED ROYALIST.

Joseph the Second, passing through Nantes, stopped one whole day to examine the beautiful gate of that city. This was at the period when the American Revolution commenced. All the ships were ornamented in honor of the prince, and a beautiful American standard was seen, with thirteen stars on it, a symbol of the new constellation then rising in the West. The Emperor turned away his eyes ; “ I cannot look at this,” said he to the commandant of the place, “ for I am obliged to be a royalist.”

THE ECONOMIST.

Economy was the grand principle of M. Turgot, the minister of Louis the Sixteenth, and his frequent reductions were unpopular with the nobility as well as the clergy. The mother of this minister asked a bishop if he could not make the Passover and Christmas come on the same day. “ Madam,” replied the prelate, “ as this is an age of economy, I think that it ought to be done, although *I* do not exactly know how to do it.”

A DYING USURER.

M. Landau, an usurious money-lender, being at the point of death, was exhorted by his confessor to prepare for eternity, and a silver crucifix was held towards him. The dying man regarding it for some moments with much attention, at length exclaimed, with his accustomed disdainful air when trading, "I cannot lend you much on this."

THE MISTAKE REMEDIED.

Frederic the Great, having constructed a church, the ministers who were to officiate represented to him that their parishioners could not see to read the Canticles, these being placed too high. As the building was too far advanced to be altered, his majesty caused the following to be written near the chancel: "Blessed are those who do not see, and yet believe."

THE CHILD'S COMPLIMENT.

The Duke de Maine, while yet a child, was one day in the apartments of the great Condé, and made a great deal of noise in playing.

The prince complained of it. "I wish," said the child to him, "that I could make half as much noise as you do in the world."

VOLTAIRE'S COMMISSION.

An Englishman, passing through Ferney, while travelling to Italy, offered to bring from Rome any thing which Voltaire wished. "Very well," said Voltaire, "bring me the ears of the grand inquisitor." The Englishman, talking familiarly with Clement the Fourteenth, told him what Voltaire had said. "Say to Voltaire, when you return," replied the pope smiling, "that our inquisitor has no ears."

THE PASSIONATE CHESS-PLAYER.

Latour, a passionate admirer of the game of chess, was once playing at the house of a friend; when most deeply interested, and on the point of check-mating his opponent, a mischievous child, who was allowed by its mother the most unrestrained liberty, threw himself directly upon the chess-board, knocking the pieces in every direction. In a great passion,

Latour bitterly cursed children in general, and this one in particular. "How can you," asked the mother, "wish harm to the poor little innocent?" "Madam," replied Latour, "innocents such as that would reconcile me with Herod."

THE MORTAL AND THE VENIAL SINS.

Doctor Franklin once said, that in medicine the sins of commission were mortal, and that the sins of omission were pardonable.

THE WAY TO SILENCE A PIG.

Charles the Fifth, going to visit the cloister of Dominicans at Vienna, met upon the road a peasant who was carrying a pig. As the animal squealed most disagreeably, the emperor asked the peasant if he did not know how to prevent it. The countryman avowed that he did not, and added that he should be very glad to know. "Take the pig by his tail," said the Emperor, "and he will soon stop that noise." The peasant did so, and the pig was instantly quiet. Then addressing Charles the Fifth, the gratified owner of the animal

said, "You must have kept many pigs during your life, since you know so much more about them than I do."

THE HONEST LIBRARIAN.

Bautru, a distinguished member of the French Academy, having been sent to Spain, went once to see the celebrated library in the Escorial. A conversation which he there held with the librarian convinced him that the latter was not well qualified for his office. He afterwards, in an interview with the king, to whom he was describing the beauties of this princely mansion, mentioned that the librarian was an extraordinary man, and ought to be appointed minister of finances. "Why?" asked the king. "Because, sire," replied Bautru, "having abstracted nothing from your books, there is reason to believe that he would abstract nothing from your finances."

THE UNEQUAL PORTION.

A potter, presenting himself before Schah-roch, one of the sons of Tamerlane, who had

amassed great wealth, asked him if he did not believe that portion of the Koran which teaches that the Mahometans are brothers. Schahroch answered, that he did. "Then," added the potter, "since we are all brethren, is it not unjust for you to possess such wealth while I am in want? Give me the portion which, as your brother, belongs to me." The prince gave him a small piece of money. "How," said the potter, "of such large treasures have I right only to this small share?" "Go away," replied the prince, "and tell no one what I have given you; for your portion would not be so large if all our brethren came to demand their share."

THE HUMANE COCKNEY.

A Cockney, passing through a village, saw a peasant beating his donkey in the most brutal manner. "How much will you sell that animal for?" asked he, — "If it belongs to you, I will buy it." "You can have it for ten crowns," replied the peasant. The money was paid at once. "Now," said the cockney, "as the animal is mine, how dare you, scoun-

drel, beat my donkey so unmercifully ? ” He then gave the peasant a severe beating ; who, ever afterwards used to say, ‘ that he never saw a donkey without thinking of a cockney.

THE WOODEN SWORD.

A boaster, who was in the habit of frightening young men, and endeavoring to provoke them to fight, well knowing that no one would quarrel with him, once unexpectedly offended a person, who challenged him. Obligated to meet his opponent, he was at first in great anxiety ; but after having thought of every possible plan to avoid the meeting, he at last resolved upon the following method. He put a wooden blade in the scabbard of his sword, and when he arrived at the appointed place, and saw his adversary on guard, he exclaimed, kneeling on the ground, “ Great God ! grant that the blade of my sword may turn to wood ; otherwise, I shall be obliged to kill this man.” He then drew his wooden sword, and said to his adversary, who seemed astonished at the apparent miracle, “ Be thankful to

Heaven, Sir, that my prayer was answered, for otherwise you would this evening have supped with Pluto."

THE SON'S DEEP SIGH.

Jean Gonzague, having lost a large sum of money, his son Alexander, who was present, happened to sigh deeply. Gonzague, perceiving it, said to the spectators, "Alexander the Great, learning that his father had obtained a victory, was sorrowful, fearing that he would leave nothing for him to conquer; but my son Alexander is grieved at my loss, because he fears that I shall leave him nothing to lose." "Yes," quickly replied the young man, "but if Philip had lost all, Alexander would not have had the means of conquering."

THE LAWYER'S TRICK.

A French advocate was once commissioned by the court to plead the cause of a child, which he did so eloquently as to cause great emotion in the jury. The better to excite their commiseration, he took the child in his arms, who immediately began to weep and cry

out most piteously. A favorable influence was thus produced, when the lawyer on the opposite side requested the judge to ask the child why he wept so much. "He pinches me," replied the poor child. The advocate dropped his young client, said nothing more, and lost by this trick all that he had gained by his eloquence.

A KING COMPARED TO A DITCH.

When Philip the Second, king of Spain, lost the Netherlands, his flatterers saluting him still with the title of "Great," a courtier observed, "My monarch resembles a ditch; the more earth which is taken from it, the greater it is."

THE COMPACT WITH DEATH.

When it was proposed in the French National Assembly, that no treaty should be made with the enemy while they stood upon the French soil, Mercier, one of the members, exclaimed, "Have you then made a compact with victory?" "No," said Bazire, "but we have made one with Death."

THE FOOL'S REPLY.

The buffoon of Queen Elizabeth, having for a long time absented himself, not daring to appear before her, on account of having made use of some over-bold expressions, finally received permission to present himself before the queen. This princess said to him, "Well, Sir, have you come to reproach us with our faults?" "No, madam," answered the buffoon, "it is not my practice to mention things of which every body speaks."

THE POPE'S REPLY.

Pope Pius the Fifth was a man of great austerity. He was told that the Roman people, knowing his extreme severity, testified more sadness than joy at his exaltation. "Leave me alone," replied he, "I will so conduct myself, if God gives me strength, that my people will display yet more sadness at my death."

CLEMENT'S SECRETARIES.

Clement the Fourteenth, telling a certain princess that he was favored with three very

active secretaries, was asked by her if he had nothing to fear from their indiscretion. "Oh no!" answered he, "they are strongly attached to me, and never will, I am certain, betray me." So saying, he showed his three fingers, adding, "These are my secretaries."

WOMAN'S INFLUENCE.

Marian Socin, a celebrated lawyer of the sixteenth century, greatly neglected his studies after he was married. His friends remonstrated with him, and quoted Socrates as worthy of imitation, who studied as much after as before his marriage. "I am not surprised at that," said he; "Xantippe was ugly and wicked; my wife, on the contrary, is good and beautiful."

CÆSAR'S INQUIRY.

Cæsar, observing many wealthy Englishmen with lap-dogs, which they caressed very tenderly, inquired, if the women of their country never had children.

THE REPROVED FLATTERER.

M. de Saint Ange resolved to visit Voltaire, and addressed him with what he regarded a high compliment: "I came to-day to see Homer. To-morrow I shall come to see Sophocles, and the day after, Anacreon." "Ah, Sir," answered Voltaire, "I am quite aged, and if you will make all those visits at once, you will greatly oblige me."

ARISTIDES' IMPARTIALITY.

Aristides was presiding as judge in a trial between two influential citizens, when one of them began to enumerate the wrongs which his opponent had done to him (Aristides.) "My friend," said the just man, interrupting him, "speak only of the injury he has done you. It is thy cause which I am judging, and not my own."

MIRANDOLE.

Young Mirandole, when but nine years old, delighted all his friends by his extraordinary genius, excepting one old female relative, who took every opportunity to make severe remarks

concerning the extraordinary youth. Once she remarked, with bitterness, in his presence, "Make much of your time, my boy; forward children generally become stupid when they grow old." "If what you say is true," answered the young prince, "you must have been uncommonly precocious when you were young."

CHARITY OF PTOLEMEUS.

Ptolemeus, the Theban, was so accustomed to deeds of charity, that on a poor soldier demanding alms, this general having nothing valuable about his person, took off his shoes, and, presenting them, said, "My poor fellow, take these; it is all I can now give you; but rather than see you suffer I will willingly go barefoot."

ENDURANCE OF PAIN.

The Spanish captain, Lopez d'Acun, arming himself hastily for battle, told his servant that his helmet was not put on properly, since his ear pained him greatly. The servant insisted that it was right, and without stopping to dispute, the soldier hastened where glory called

him. On his return, he threw off his helmet, and his ear came with it. Turning calmly to his servant, he said, "Did I not tell you that my helmet was badly put on."

REPARTEE OF HENRY THE FOURTH.

Henry the Fourth meeting, one day, in the chambers of the Louvre, a man who was unknown to him, and whose exterior indicated nothing "distingué," asked him who he belonged to, supposing him the attendant of some lord. "I belong to myself," said the man, with an insolent air. "Then," said the king to him, "you have an impertinent fellow for a master."

BENEVOLENCE OF LOUIS THE SIXTEENTH.

A splendid silver lamp was once stolen from the church of Saint Germain-en-laie. Louis the Sixteenth promised a great reward for the discovery of the robber. One of the first lords of his court came privately, and informed him that his father was the robber, and who, on account of great need, had committed this sacrilege. "I deeply regret it, for your sake," replied the king; "but I must punish

him, so that he will never rob again." He then sent for the poor man, and secretly giving him a large sum of money, told him that if he was ever in need, he would again relieve him.

CRITICISM OF BURGOYNE.

General Burgoyne was one of a large party which had assembled to hear the reading of a tragedy, which was to be performed at the principal theatres in London. At the end of the first act, in which more than thirty persons were introduced, the author, impatient to know the opinion of so good a critic, asked him what he thought of it. "Sir," said Burgoyne, "what rank do you hold in the army?" The poet was astonished at the question. "If you are not a major-general at least, you will never be able to conduct such a numerous army safely through the piece."

THE DISCONTENTED SOLDIER.

The French General Cherin once led a detachment of troops through a very dangerous and difficult defile. He exhorted his soldiers

to support patiently the fatigue of the march. "It is easy for you to talk, who are mounted on a good horse; but we, poor devils" — Cherin instantly sprang from his horse, and ordered the discontented man to take his place. Scarcely had the soldier mounted, before a bullet struck and killed him on the spot. "You see, fellow-soldiers," said Cherin, remounting his horse, "that your leader's place is not the best."

DEATH OF TURENNE.

In 1675, the Council of Vienna sent Montecuculi against Turenne, as the only officer whom they judged able to oppose him. The two generals were equally perfect in the art of war. Four months were spent by the two armies, in marching and counter-marching. At the end of that time, Turenne, thinking that his rival was in such a position that he could be attacked with advantage, advanced to erect a battery, when he was struck by a cannon ball, and instantly killed. The same ball also mortally wounded St. Hilaire, a general of artillery; and his son, who was near

him, could not refrain from weeping. "Do not mourn for me," said the dying general, "but lament that your country has lost such a noble soldier as Turenne."

THE PHYSICIAN HIS OWN PATIENT.

Chirac, a distinguished physician, being sick, felt his own pulse while delirious, and remarked hastily, "Why did not this patient send for me sooner? He cannot recover now."

FIRMNESS.

At the time when General Jackson performed the duties of sheriff, ten constables were sent by him, to arrest a man who was suspected of murder. The murderer, well-armed, successfully resisted them, and when it was found necessary to augment the force, those designated appeared afraid to go against the desperate man. "Appoint me, then," said Jackson, to one of his colleagues; and, after a necessary legal formality, he advanced calmly, but sternly, towards the fellow, whom no one dared to arrest, struck aside the weapon

aimed at his breast, disarmed and bound him, leaving the spectators astonished at such *sang-froid* and firmness.

POLITENESS OF FONTENELLE.

Fontenelle assisted at the wedding of Madame Helvetius, to whom he was profuse in his compliments. A short time afterwards, he was passing by her, without recognition. "Stop," said she to him; "your former praises must have been very insincere, since you pass without noticing me." "Madame," replied the polite old man, "had I noticed you, I should never have been able to pass by."

FRENCH LADIES AND FRENCH COLORS.

Lord Chesterfield, being in Paris, was at a party with Voltaire, when the latter said to him: "My lord, which are the most beautiful — the English or the French ladies?" "Really, I cannot tell," replied Chesterfield, "for I am not a good judge of painting." Soon afterwards Voltaire, happening to converse with an English woman, highly rouged, Chee-

terfield approached him, and said : " Sir, take care that you are not captivated." " My lord," replied Voltaire, " I have no fears of being taken by an English vessel carrying French colors."

SELF-COMMAND.

Newton was endowed with extraordinary patience. He was for many years engaged upon a work, which required great research and assiduous attention. Having nearly completed it, he one evening left his study, and when he returned, found his manuscript in cinders. A favorite young dog had, in playing, overturned a candle upon the valuable papers. " Ah ! Diamond, my poor fellow, you do not know what injury you have done," said the philosopher, patting the dog on his head.

MODESTY.

The famous Duval, librarian of Francis the First, frequently answered, " I do not know," to questions addressed to him upon different scientific subjects. " But, sir," said one to

him, "the emperor pays you for knowing these things." "True," said the learned man, "he pays me for what I know; but were he to pay me for what I do not know, the treasures of the empire would not be sufficient."

ILL-TIMED JESTING.

Under the regency, the ecclesiastical Elector of Cologne, being at Valenciennes, announced that he should preach on the first day of April. An immense crowd assembled in the church. The Elector, having reached the pulpit, gravely bowed to the multitude, made the sign of the cross, and cried out, "April fools." He afterwards descended from the pulpit, while a number of trumpets and hunting horns, accompanied by kettle-drums, made a deafening discord, well worthy of such a scandalous farce.

BOY'S PLAY.

The Chevalier Boucicant, aged only seventeen, was in the battle of Rosbee, with Charles the Sixth, and encountering a Flemish soldier, of great size, the latter, lowering his battle-

axe, said, with an air of contempt : " Return, boy, to the nursery ; the French must have great need of troops, to send such a child to battle." Indignant, the young Boucicant threw himself upon his adversary, and buried his poignard in his heart, exclaiming, " Do children in your country play in this manner ? "

THE ARCHBISHOP OF SENS.

Fortin de la Hoquette, Archbishop of Sens, refused the Order of the Holy Ghost, not being of the high birth exacted by the statute. It was proposed to alter his genealogy. " I do not wish," replied he, " to degrade the Order by my birth, and still less to degrade myself by a lie."

THE POPE'S POWERLESSNESS.

The Chevalier Mirabeau, when commander of a frigate, being once at Civita Vecchia, asked permission of the pope to present to him his midshipmen. They were at once admitted to an audience with his Holiness. Unfortunately, after the first ceremonies of eti-

quette were over, the wild young fellows were seized with turns of uncontrollable laughter, at something which was ludicrous to none but themselves. The Chevalier, much confused, made many apologies to the pontiff, for the impoliteness of his officers. "Do n't be troubled," said the latter to him ; " pope though I be, I have not the power to prevent a Frenchman from laughing."

THE FIRST AERONAUT.

The Marquis d'Arlandes, dining once with the King of France, his majesty complimented him upon his daring, in being the first to expose his life as an aeronaut, and asked what his motive could be. "Sire," answered the officer, "I have received so many *airy* promises, that I was led to conclude, my only chance of advancement was to ascend in a balloon."

CUNNING OF A CARDINAL.

Sextus the Fifth, before his elevation to the pontifical throne, pretended to be enfeebled by age and infirmity. and walked very much

bent; thinking by this means to excite sympathy, and render his election more certain. He was no sooner made pope, than he became erect, and walked as straight as ever. This change was so great, that every body observed it, and some one asked him the cause. "I was looking," said the pope, "for the keys of St. Peter; now that I have found them, it is not necessary for me to stoop any more."

INFLEXIBILITY OF NAPOLEON.

The Empress Josephine was once solicited to intercede for the pardon of a young man who was condemned to die. She exerted all her influence with her royal spouse, to obtain the criminal's pardon. "It is the first favor of the kind I ever demanded, and I hope that you will grant it." "It is impossible," said Napoleon. "Can you refuse me?" asked the Empress. "Yes, Madame," replied he, "and when it is known that *you* have been refused, I think that no one will afterwards venture to apply to me."

THE MISCHIEVOUS STUDENTS.

M. Galland, in his *Arabian Tales*, frequently made one of the characters repeat the following words : “ My dear sister, if you are not asleep, will you tell us one of the stories you relate so well ? ” Some young students, wearied with such repetition, went one cold night in winter to old Galland’s house, and awoke him, by calling his name under his window. He opened the window, and asked what they wanted. “ Monsieur Galland,” said one of them, “ are you the translator of those charming *Arabian Tales*, so much admired ? ” “ Yes, young gentleman.” “ Very well, Monsieur Galland, if you are not asleep, will you tell us one of those stories which you relate so well ? ”

NAPOLEON’S CLEMENCY.

The Prince of Harzberg was governor of Berlin, during its occupation by the French. Accused of entering into a conspiracy, his wife hastened to Napoleon, protesting his innocence. The emperor, presenting a letter, signed by the hand of her husband, said to

her : " Read this, madam, and you will then know if he is guilty or not." Seeing such irresistible proof of her husband's guilt, she fell senseless. " Well, madam," continued the emperor, " what would you do, in my place ? " " Sire," replied the princess quickly, " I would burn that letter, that I might have the pleasure of granting pardon to a brave man." " I 'll do it," said the Emperor ; and immediately throwing the document into the fire, he thus arrested the course of justice, and destroyed all proof of guilt.

ENGLISH PRODUCTIONS.

Mirabeau said, " That in all England there was nothing polished, except steel ; and no mellow fruit, except baked apples."

QUALITY VERSUS QUANTITY.

The Marquis de Hauteville said, haughtily, to a banker, " You must recollect that I am a man of quality." " Yes, but you must also recollect," said the banker, " that I am a man of quantity."

THE KING'S COUSIN.

When Count Chesterfield was in the ministry, he once went to the king, to beg his signature to the nomination of a person, who was no great favorite with his majesty. The importunities of Chesterfield seemed not likely to be successful, when, in despair, he said: "Well, here is a vacancy; what name *shall* I insert?" "The name of Beelzebub," answered the king, angrily. "Yes, your Majesty. I must write, though, before it, the usual protocol—'To our loyal and well-beloved cousin, &c.'" This put the king in such good humor, that he permitted Chesterfield to insert the name of his friend, and signed the document.

STRANGE MISTAKE.

Gibbon, author of the *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, had an unusually unintellectual face. His extremely large cheeks were nearly on a level with his nose and mouth. M. de Lauzun once introduced him to Madame Deffant, who was blind. This lady was in the habit of passing her hand over the faces of those who were presented to her, in

to form some idea of their features. Having touched the face of Gibbon, she pushed him back, exclaiming, "Take off that; such jesting is scandalous."

WONDERFUL ESCAPE.

Prothemus, chief of the Messinians, being a prisoner by the Spartans, whom he had conquered, was condemned to be thrown with forty others, into a deep and horrible cavern. The Spartans, respecting his bravery, although their worst enemy, allowed him to wear his buckler, which broke the force of the fall, while all his companions were killed. He lingered two days among their dead bodies and was beginning to lament that he had lost his armor, when he perceived a fox turning the carcasses by which he was surrounded. He caught the animal firmly by the tail, which, by its efforts to escape, drew him so far that he was enabled to gain the mouth of the cave, and rejoin his troops.

THE TWO MADE ONE.

Madame Gautin, the beautiful and lively woman of fashion, who had been married but a short time, was observed by her husband to yawn constantly, when with him. He once asked her if she was tired of his company. "Oh! no," replied she, "but you are, of course, aware, that both of us now are but one, and I am always *ennuyed* when alone."

VIGILANCE.

Cicero said of Caninius Revilus, who was consul for only one day, "We have a consul so extremely vigilant that he has not slept a single night during his consulship."

THE DISAPPOINTED BORROWER.

A nobleman, who was poor, once visited Laborde, the king's banker, and said to him, "Monsieur de Laborde, you will be doubtless much astonished that I, not having the honor of knowing you, should come to borrow of you a hundred louis." "Sir," replied the banker, "I should be much more astonished if you received them."

IMPERTINENCE REPROVED.

Some young "gardes du corps," while once walking in the garden of the Tuilleries behind Mademoiselle Mars, repeated so loudly that she could hear,— "Look at Mars,— there goes Mars." "Well," demanded she, turning round to them with a sneering air, "what is there in common between Mars and yourselves."

THE VIZIER'S GENEROSITY.

The vizier of the Calif Mostaldi, having gained a victory over the Greeks, and made their emperor prisoner, demanded of the latter what treatment he expected from his conqueror. "If you make war as a king, you will release me; if as a merchant, you will sell me; if as a butcher, you will behead me." The Mahometan general released him without ransom.

THE GENEROUS VICTIM.

Madame de Villacerf, being about to die, in the flower of her age, in consequence of a bungling surgeon's want of skill, consoled her

“legal murderer” with these words: “I regard you, not as one whose blunder has cost my life, but as a benefactor who has facilitated my entrance into a happy immortality. The world will probably judge you more harshly, and for fear that you should suffer, on this account, in your professional career, I will leave you in my will a sum sufficient to place you above want.”

THE THREE DAUGHTERS OF RICHARD.

Foulques de Neuilly, the most celebrated priest of his time, told Richard, king of England, that he had three children of marriageable age, and if they were not soon got rid of, God would punish him severely. “You are a false prophet,” said the king, “I have no daughters.” “Pardon me, Sire. Your Majesty has three, — Ambition, Avarice and Luxury. Rid yourself of them or you will regret it.” “We will marry them then,” said the king; “I give my Ambition to the templars, my Avarice to the monks, and my Luxury to the prelates.”

HARD SWEARING.

Corbillon, being once requested in court to take an oath, said to the judge that he did not know how to swear; "but," added he, "I have a son who is a grenadier, and he often swears until he loses his breath. I will go and bring him here. He will swear you all out of the court-room in five minutes."

NOBLE SELF-SACRIFICE.

A conflagration having in one night consumed the principal mosque in Cairo, the Mussulmen failed not to impute the misfortune to the hatred of the Christians; and many young men, without examining if such a suspicion were well founded, ran to the quarter inhabited by Christians, and set fire to it in revenge. The governor caused the guilty to be arrested, and condemned them all to death; but the band being numerous, he resolved to throw into an urn tickets corresponding to the number of those who were arrested, — a few tickets only having "death" written on them, — and commanded each one to take his chance. When all were drawn out from the fatal urn,

one of the unfortunates who was to die, exclaimed, in extreme grief, "I am not afraid of death, but I know not how my poor parents can be supported when I am gone." One of the band, who, by his good luck, was saved, immediately said to him, "Friend, I have no father or mother, and my life is of no value to any one. Give me thy ticket and take mine." This extraordinary and most noble self-sacrifice excited the admiration of all who witnessed it, and the governor finally pardoned both of them.

RAPHAEL'S RESPONSE.

Two cardinals reproached Raphael for having, in one of his pictures, painted the faces of St. Peter and St. Paul too red. "Gentlemen!" exclaimed the artist, offended at their criticism, "do not be troubled; I have painted them as they really are in heaven. This redness arises from their shame at seeing their church here so badly represented."

THE POET NO LIBRARIAN.

The desire for reading was a perfect passion with the poet Millevoye. In his youth, he abandoned himself to it entirely. He was employed thus, when his father, a librarian, finding him busily engaged in turning over the leaves instead of assorting the books, exclaimed, in a sorrowful tone, "My poor son, you will never make a librarian."

REMARK OF A KING.

M. de St. Germain once said to Louis the Fifteenth, "To esteem men, one should be neither a confessor, a minister, nor a police officer." "Nor king," added the monarch.

JEAN GUITON.

When Rochelle was besieged by the Royalist army, in 1627, the inhabitants chose for their governor, Jean Guiton. This brave man at first declined, but being urged by the citizens to consent, he drew his sword and said, "I will be governor, since you so much desire it; but on condition that I may be per-

mitted to stab the first man who talks of surrender. I desire also that I may be shot down on the instant when I speak of capitulation." Cardinal Richelieu, who conducted the operations of the siege, ordered a mound to be raised before the gate of the city, to bar the entrance and prevent the bringing in of provisions. Some one observed to Guiton, that hunger would soon cause many to perish. "Be it so," said he, coolly, "if but one soldier remain alive, he can keep the gate closed."

INDIFFERENCE TO DANGER.

While Charles the Twelfth, during the siege of Stralsand, was dictating a letter to his secretary, a bomb was thrown upon the house, pierced the roof, and fell into the very chamber of the king. At this fearful sight, the pen dropped from the trembling hand of the secretary. "What is the matter?" said the king, calmly. "Ah, your majesty, the bomb." "Well," replied the king, "what has the bomb to do with the subject of the letter? Write on."

COURAGE OF CINQ-MARS.

Cinq-Mars, having been condemned to death by order of the Cardinal Richelieu, ascended the scaffold with extraordinary coolness. Having conversed for a short time with his confessor, he knelt down, and deliberately placed his neck upon the block. "Is this right?" asked he of the executioner. "Yes, sir," answered the latter. "Strike then," said Cinq-Mars; and at one blow of the axe, the head was separated from the body.

THE VALOROUS SCOTCHMAN.

A Scotchman, traveling on foot, was attacked by three highwaymen. He defended himself with so much obstinacy that they could only with great difficulty approach sufficiently near to knock him down. The robbers hoped that after such a vigorous resistance, they would obtain a rich booty, but they were not a little astonished to find, that the treasure of the robust Caledonian amounted to the sum of three pence only. "Confound the fellow," said one of them, "if there had been sixpence in his pocket, I believe he would have killed us all."

THE SNUFF TAKER.

As Frederic the Great was one day occupied in writing, he happened to observe in a mirror, before which he was seated, one of his attendants approach a table on which was the King's snuff-box, and help himself therefrom. After finishing the letter, the King arose, took the snuff-box, which was of great value, and showing it to his attendant, asked if he was pleased with it. Somewhat embarrassed, the servant replied that he was. "Take it then," said Frederic, smiling, "it is hardly large enough for both of us."

THE CHILD SEVENTY YEARS OLD.

The Marchioness of S**** at the age of ninety-eight, lost, by death, the last of her daughters, who was nearly seventy years old. "I am very unfortunate," said the old lady to one who attempted to console her; "of five children whom the Lord has blessed me with, I have been unable to raise one."

A SECOND CAIN.

A young man, who fancied that he possessed histrionic talents, applied to Quin, the manager of Covent Garden Theatre, and declaimed before him in a ridiculous style. "Have you ever attempted tragedy?" asked this celebrated actor. "Yes sir, I have taken the part of Abel." "You must mean the part of Cain, I think, for you would certainly murder Abel."

FEARLESSNESS OF DEATH.

When the friends of Cæsar advised him to take precautions for the safety of his person, and not appear in public without arms and a body-guard, he made them this reply: "He who lives in fear of death, experiences every moment all its pangs; I do not wish to die but once."

THE KING-DESERTER.

Frederic the Great was one evening surveying the advance guard of his camp, and perceived a soldier running out of the line. He shouted to him, and sternly demanded where

he was going. "To tell the truth," said the soldier, "your Majesty has been so unfortunate in your enterprises of late, that I was about to desert." "Well," said the king, "remain but eight days longer, and if fortune then does not prove more favorable, I will also desert with you."

THE ENEMY SURROUNDED.

An American soldier, meeting five Englishmen, had the boldness singly to attack them. He succeeded in wounding two, disarming the others, and bringing them all captive to Washington. The general, astonished, asked how he managed to conquer five men. "As soon as I saw them," said the soldier, "I quietly crept up and surrounded them all."

TAKING A WOMAN'S LIFE.

Constantia Phillips, authoress of many works, being unfortunate, was reduced to obtain a poor subsistence by selling books in a small shop near Westminster. A physician, who had previously attended her during a very long and dangerous illness, once came to

her shop to demand payment. She told him that she was so very destitute that she could not pay any thing. "I admit," said she, "that I am under great obligations to you; in short, that I owe you my life; and as I am not ungrateful, I entreat you to take the life which I owe you." So saying, she took from her shelf and gave to the physician, two volumes, having for a title, "The Life of Constantia Phillips."

THE PLACE DANGEROUS TO AUTHORS.

The poet Roi, going, one evening, out of the "Theatre Français," made a misstep and fell heavily. A friend expressing his regret, the poet said, "It is no more than might have been expected. Authors are accustomed to fall here."

IMITATION OF THUNDER.

A traveller, boasting in the presence of Racine, of the incredible things which he had seen performed, the latter, wearied with his exaggerations, said, "My dear sir, you have related nothing equal to the performance of a

celebrated organist, who, in attempting an imitation of thunder, absolutely turned all the milk sour within ten miles of the instrument."

THE INHOSPITABLE VILLAGERS.

Father André preached, during Lent, in a village where he was not once invited to dinner. Somewhat offended at this neglect, he added at the close of his last sermon, "My friends, I have preached against every vice which I suppose you commit, excepting that of luxurious living; I regret to say that I have had no opportunity of judging if you sin in this respect."

THE GRANDEE'S PRAYER.

A Spanish nobleman, who never partook of the sacrament unless in full dress, and who had his name inscribed upon his heel with golden nails, in order that, when on his knees, it might be seen how greatly he humbled himself, was once heard commencing a prayer in the following words: "My God, you see before you the greatest sinner in the world, Monseigneur the Marshal N****, Chevalier

of the highest rank, Knight of the Golden Fleece, Count of St. Luce, Governor of two different provinces, Grandee of the first class, Marquis, &c. &c. &c."

THE POLITE HIGHWAYMAN.

Placide, the famous rope-dancer, as well known in England as in France, was stopped on the road, a short distance from London, by six robbers, who took from him his watch and twenty-five guineas. The chief of the band, after having robbed him, took his hand, and thus politely addressed him: "Good by, my dear sir; I may some day out-do you, by taking a more dangerous leap than any you have ever attempted. I promise that you shall receive an invitation to that exhibition of agility whenever it takes place; until then, I fear that I must remain your debtor."

LIMITED POWER OF THE POPE.

A cardinal complained to Leo the Tenth, that Michael Angelo had painted him in the infernal region in his work of the "Last Judgment." "If Michael Angelo had put you in

purgatory, I might have been of some service to you; but my power unhappily does not extend so far as to remove you from hell."

THE USELESS FURNITURE.

The Archbishop of Amiens, (d'Orleans de la Motte,) passing through his diocese, exhorted the church-wardens of a certain village to contribute something for the ornament of the tabernacle. One of them said to him, "Monseigneur, we are in possession of an entirely useless article of furniture, which we can sell, and with the proceeds procure what is desirable." "What is the useless article?" asked the prelate. "It is," said the parishioner, "the pulpit of our church, for our curate seldom makes use of it."

PHILOSOPHY OF ANAXAGORAS.

Anaxagoras, being on his death-bed, was asked if he should not have preferred to yield up his last breath at Clazomenes, his country. "It matters not," replied he; "the road which conducts to the other world is no longer

from this place than from my native land ; and my dust will repose equally well any where."

THE SPITTOON.

Diogenes once visited a magnificent palace, the interior of which was of pure marble and gold. Being seized with a fit of coughing, he found himself under the necessity of spitting ; and looking about anxiously for a moment, he at length spit in the face of a Phrygian, who was showing him the beauties of the palace, saying to him, "My friend, your visage seems to be the best place for this purpose, since it is the dirtiest spot that I can discover in the room."

THE COMIC SINGER.

A singer in the "Opera Comique," at Paris, of ordinary talents, volunteered to take the place of a very accomplished vocalist, who had suddenly fallen sick a few moments before the stage curtain was raised. He had scarcely opened his mouth before he was hissed without mercy. Without being disconcerted by such a reception, he advanced to the front of

the stage, and looking calmly at the audience, he said, "Do you expect that I, who receive only forty francs a week, can afford to sing as well as he who receives five hundred?" This speech pleased the pit so much, that he was afterwards listened to with great indulgence.

THE MUSIC OF CANNON-BALLS.

Gironne was besieged by the French in 1711. The general, the Duc de Noailles, while inspecting a battery, narrowly escaped being struck by a cannon-ball, which passed by him. "Did you hear that music," inquired he of Bigola, the commandant of artillery, who was standing near. "No, my general, I never listen to the bullets which come; I only hear those which go."

MUTUAL GENEROSITY IN WAR.

In the bloody battle which Prince Louis de Bade gained near Peterwaradin, a Janissary lost his turban, which a German officer observing, picked it up, and presented it to him, adding in Turkish: "My friend, here is

your turban. You are a soldier; so am I; we should treat each other as brothers." The Janissary, delighted, and unwilling to be surpassed in generosity, took the turban in one hand, and offering his musket with the other, said to the officer: "If we are brothers, I have no use for this weapon."

DEATH OF MONTMORENCI.

Montmorenci, constable of France, was mortally wounded in battle. When the priest exhorted him to die like a good Christian, and to exhibit the same courage in death as he had shown during life, he replied, "I have spent the last twenty-four years in trying to live well, and it will not be at all difficult for me to spend a quarter of an hour in dying well."

THE PROMOTION OF LONGEVITY.

On the day previous to a desperate attack upon the enemy which the Marshal de Toiras contemplated, one of his officers begged for leave of absence, that he might visit his father, whom he described as at the point of death.

“Go,” said the General, who immediately perceived the officer’s anxiety to escape from the intended battle, “Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long in the land.”

LOSS OF TIME.

A robber entered at night the cottage of a poor peasant of Auvergne. While the former was groping about, vainly endeavoring to discover some article of value, the peasant, being disturbed by the noise, rose up in his bed, and thus spoke: “My friend, you are losing your precious time in coming by night to a place in which even I can find nothing by daylight.”

A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN.

M. Bougier, a Protestant, was once urged by the king of France to abjure his religion, and become a Roman Catholic; being promised, if he did so, the office of Marshal. “Sire,” said Bougier to the latter, “if I should betray my God for a Marshal’s bâton, I fear that I might be easily induced to betray my king for a much smaller recompense.”

THE FALLEN BAROMETER.

The late Bishop of Worcester was as amiable as he was learned. He possessed a very valuable barometer, which cost two hundred guineas. A relative, at one time, paying this prelate a visit, was ushered into his presence by a valet, who, on reaching a chair, displaced the barometer, which, falling, was broken into pieces. The gentleman, in despair at being the innocent cause of this accident, endeavored to apologize for the servant's carelessness. "Don't mention it," said the bishop, "the weather has been very dry of late, and I am in hopes now that we shall soon have rain, for I have never before seen my barometer so low."

AN OBEDIENT SOLDIER.

A Russian general, on the eve of a battle, gave particular orders that no prisoners should be taken. The contest was terrible, and victory a long while doubtful, but at length was gained by the Russians. One of their officers overtook, in the pursuit, an old friend, with whom he was once intimate, who begged for

his life. "Ask anything but that," replied the officer, "and I will gladly gratify you, but I cannot disobey orders." In speaking thus he passed his sword through the suppliant body.

COOLNESS IN DANGER.

General de F——, during a desperate contest, asked one of his adjutants for a pinch snuff. The latter, at the very moment of complying, was struck by a cannon ball, and his mangled body carried many yards by the force of the shot. The general, turning calmly to the other side, said to another officer: "Must trouble you, then, since my adjutant has gone off with his snuff-box."

REGRET OF PETER THE GREAT.

Peter the Great once, in anger, struck his gardener so violently, as to cause his death a few days after. "Alas!" cried this wonderful man, in excessive emotion, "I have civilized my subjects, I have conquered whole nations; but, God forgive me, I have not yet civilized or conquered myself."

ASSUMED SIMPLICITY.

General Bassompierre used to say to his refractory soldiers, "Comrade, you or I will have to be shot;" and this declaration was equivalent to a sentence of death. One poor fellow, on his way to execution, addressed his commander thus: "General, as you did me the honor to inform me, yesterday, that one of us must be shot, and as I prefer to live a while longer, I hope that you will consent to stand as a target. If you wónt, I suppose that I must."

RUMOR A LIAR.

A courtier once said to the Emperor Augustus, "My lord, the report is, that you intend making me a present." "Rumor often lies," replied Augustus; "never believe her."

GREAT BRITAIN BEATEN BY TAILORS.

A short time after the termination of the war of Independence, a young American landed to be at a theatre in London, where a drama was performed, in which his country-

men were introduced as shoemakers, tailors &c., transformed into ragged and barefooted officers of the army. In the midst of the performance, the American rose from his seat and loudly cried out: "Bravo! bravo! Great Britain beaten by tailors and shoemakers!" This exclamation was the cause of such disturbance among the audience, that the actors were obliged to retire, and never afterwards repeated the drama.

THE COLORS OF VIRTUE.

Diogenes observed to a young man who blushed frequently, "Be courageous, my young friend, as long as you can thus display the colors of virtue."

SINGULAR CONSOLATION.

Daretus, a Lacedemonian of high rank who approved bravery, not having been chosen one of the three hundred, returned home in disappointment. His mother thus consoled him: "My son, rejoice that your beloved country contains three hundred men whom she considers braver than yourself."

THE UNEXPECTED REQUEST.

An English woman, whom extreme want had rendered distracted, threw herself into the river Thames. A gentleman, passing by at the time, plunged in and saved her, as she was on the point of sinking. He was expecting a display of gratitude, when the woman turned towards him, with these words: "You, sir, have cruelly deprived me of my only resource from intolerable poverty. As you have shown yourself desirous that I should live longer, you can do no less than supply me with the means of living."

MODESTY OF WASHINGTON.

General Washington, after having terminated a glorious campaign, was in the chamber of Representatives, when the president of that body arose and addressed him, in the name of the House, as one who had acquired and deserved the admiration of his country. Washington was so much confused by the address, that he blushed and stammered greatly, when attempting a reply. The president, perceiving his confusion, soon relieved him, by saying:

“ Sit down, Sir ; your modesty is equal to your bravery, and that is above all praise.”

PROFESSIONAL FAITH.

M. Lieutaud, first physician to Louis the Thirteenth, was, on his death-bed, asked his confessor if he should expire in full faith. “ Certainly,” said the physician, “ I have faith in everything except in medicine.”

VOLTAIRE'S COMPARISON.

A man of talents, but of great want of consideration, made Voltaire a visit of several months' duration. Speaking of him, afterwards, Voltaire remarked : “ M. ——— resembles Don Quixote ; with this difference — the latter took every inn to be a chateau, while M. ——— takes all chateaux for inns.”

LAFONTAINE'S STRATAGEM.

Lafontaine was in the habit of eating every morning a roasted apple. One day he was called out, and placed the apple upon

chimney-piece. While absent, one of his friends entered the room, and seeing the apple, ate it. Lafontaine returning, and missing the fruit, guessed what had happened, and exclaimed, with great assumed emotion: "What the deuce has become of the apple, which was left here?" "I know not," said the other. "I rejoice to hear it, for I put arsenic in it, to kill rats." "O Ciel! I am poisoned," said his visitor, in excessive alarm; "quick; give me an antidote." "My friend," said Lafontaine, "be calm. I am sorry to be forced to tell a falsehood, in order to discover the truth."

THE PRESCRIPTION NOT FOLLOWED.

"Ah!" said a physician to his patient, "I am glad to find you better. You have, I perceive, followed my prescription." "God forbid," said the other; "my neck would have been broken, if I had." "How so?" asked the physician. "Why, my good sir, I threw it yesterday from the fourth story window into the street."

THE LOST SERMON.

Santeuil was once invited to fill the place of a country clergyman, who was suddenly taken sick. He consented, and when he had reached the pulpit, he perceived that he had lost his sermon. With perfect composure, he rose, and thus addressed the congregation: "My brethren, I have prepared an excellent discourse; but conclude, on the whole, that it will be useless to preach it to you, as I do not believe that you will ever become better."

INDIAN FORTITUDE.

Every one knows with what firmness the Indian captives endure the torture. A French missionary relates that a young Iroquois, while undergoing torture from his enemies, cried out: "Fools and cowards, you don't know how to make a man suffer." As he was speaking, a woman heated an iron spit red hot, and plunged it into his eyes and breast. "Ah! that is right. That's the way. You understand it."

ABSENCE OF MIND.

While M. de Bonac, Bishop of Agen, was travelling in the country, with a friend, his postillion was thrown head foremost to the ground. A crowd was soon collected about the man, who was found to be seriously injured. "Go for a surgeon," cried one. "No! no!" said the Bishop; "the man is dying; send for a priest." "Are you not one, my Lord?" asked his friend. "True, true," replied the prelate; "I had entirely forgotten that."

THE ECCENTRIC NOBLEMAN.

Lord Hamilton, a very eccentric man, having become intoxicated in an English hotel, stabbed the servant with his sword, without being conscious of what he had done. The landlord came afterwards to him, in great trepidation, and said: "My Lord, do you know that you have killed the waiter?" "Well! what of it?" answered the nobleman; "can't you charge it in your bill?"

BIGOTRY.

Gay Lussac once asked a Catholic priest, if he did not believe that the earth turned round the sun, and that the stars themselves were suns? "No! I do not believe it. My faith does not require it."

THE KING REPROVED.

A poor woman having often demanded, in vain, an audience of Philip, King of Macedon, to complain of certain wrongs, being told by the King that he had no time to hear her, at length said: "If you have no time to hear your subjects, you have no time to be a king." This answer so confounded the great man, that he remained silent for some moments, attentively listening to the woman's recital, and was never known afterwards to refuse an application of the kind.

KINDNESS OF MONCRIF.

The poet Moncrif, who died in 1770, was an extremely amiable man. He was once shamefully slandered by a journalist, which

was the means of incalculable injury to him. He wrote a very caustic reply, and sent it to be published. But, on the first day of its appearance, he sent word to have it suppressed, and spent much money, in order to destroy every copy of the publication ; giving as a reason, that he had heard that the journalist, had been unfortunate, and he would not, on any account, add to his sufferings.

THE IRISHMAN'S WINE.

An Irish gentleman having been presented with a choice cask of wine, placed it in his cellar. His valet bored a small hole near the bottom of the cask, and drank plentifully. The master, having opened the cask, was surprised to find that the wine diminished daily, and could not imagine how it happened. Some one suggested that it might have been drawn from the bottom. " You fool," said the Irishman, " that cannot be ; it diminishes at the top."

THE GARDENER IN THE SHADE.

A farmer, while walking in his garden, surprised his gardener sleeping under a tree.

“Are you not ashamed,” said he, “for being so lazy? An idler, like you, is unworthy to enjoy the light of the sun!” “It is precisely for that reason,” said the gardener, “that I am lying down in the shade.”

VOLTAIRE'S OPINION OF MEDICINE.

A young man, who intended to study medicine, made known his desire to Voltaire. “Why should you wish it?” replied he. “You will be obliged to put drugs, of which you know but little, into bodies, about which you know still less.”

MONKEYS TAKEN FOR CHILDREN.

A peasant in Germany once carried a basket of pears, as a present to his new master, Baron Von A——, who was a very homely man. In the court-yard he was met by two large monkeys, dressed in coats, with boys' caps upon their heads, which ran to the basket, and began to eat. The peasant, who had never before seen such animals, treated them with much respect, and al-

lowed them to devour as many as they wanted. On presenting his pears, afterwards, to the master, the latter thanked him, but inquired why he had not brought the basket full. "It was full, my Lord," said the good peasant, "but two of your children met me, as I entered the gate, and I could not refuse the young gentlemen a few of the ripest ones."

BURIED MISTAKES.

A painter, who had but little talent as an artist, embraced the profession of medicine. His friend inquired the reason for such a change. "In painting," replied he, "every fault is exposed to view; in medicine, they are all buried with the patient."

MILITARY OBEDIENCE.

In the horrible war of La Vendee, the army of the Convention was routed. During the retreat, Kleber, who commanded the rear-guard, called an officer to him. "Select two hundred men from the ranks, and defend the entrance of this defile." "Yes, my General."

“By means of two pieces of cannon, you can arrest, for a while, the pursuing enemy.”

“Yes, my General.” “All of you must be slain, but you will undoubtedly save the army.”

“Yes, my General.” Without adding another word, the officer hastened to execute the order, and every soldier of his band, together with himself, perished on the spot.

THE WOUNDED OFFICER'S JEST.

In the campaign of 1812, a general officer of the French army received a dangerous wound in the knee. The surgeons declared amputation necessary. Among those who surrounded the wounded officer, during the operation, was his faithful servant, who appeared overcome with grief. “Why do you weep, you foolish fellow?” said his master; “you should rather rejoice, for henceforth you will have only one boot to brush.”

LOQUACITY.

A loquacious individual, having talked himself almost out of breath, in an interview with

Aristotle, and observing, at length, that no reply was made, apologized, by saying, "Perhaps I incommode you, when you might be occupying your mind with more important subjects." "Oh ! no," answered Aristotle ; "continue, I pray thee ; I am not listening."

THE HUNCHBACK.

Bishop Cheverus having stated in a sermon, that everything which God had created was made well, was met, on going out of church, by a poor hunchback, who thus addressed him : "Do you think, my good father, that *I* am made well ?" "Yes," replied the Bishop, "perfectly well for a hunchback."

DOMESNIL'S REPLY.

General Domesnil, who lost a leg in the campaign of Moscow, commanded the citadel of Vincennes, at the invasion of the allied armies, in 1814. When summoned by the Russians to surrender, he is said to have replied : "When you restore my limb, I will give up the citadel."

DELICATE COMPLIMENT.

A French officer, named Maupertius, being at the court of Vienna, and being introduced to Maria Theresa, was asked by he did not think the Princess de —— most beautiful woman in the world. "dam," said he, "I thought so yesterday

AN ALARMING THREAT.

A clergyman being prohibited from preaching, because he was a nonconformist, said his judges : "The treatment which I received from you, will probably cost the lives of more than a thousand persons." He was instantly arrested on account of this alarming threat, and an explanation was demanded. "Nothing is more plain," said he ; "in depriving me of a parish, you leave me no resource than to become a physician."

THE ZEALOUS ANATOMIST.

William Rondelet, a famous physician, possessed of an extraordinary zeal for dissection. It is said that when his only child

he cut the body up, and prepared certain portions of it as anatomical specimens. When Fontanus, his best friend and colleague, was lying dangerously ill, Rondelet hastened to him, and begged, as a last favor, that he would leave him his body for dissection.

THE MARRIED MAN.

Joli, the celebrated comedian, once remained all night in a hotel, attentively witnessing a game of chess. A point in the game being disputed, his opinion was asked, and he replied that he did not know the game. "How could you have had the patience to remain here all this time, looking on so intently, when you did not understand the game?" asked one of the players. "Gentlemen," answered Joli, in a sorrowful tone of voice, "I am married."

THE CURATE'S MOTHER.

The Swiss Curate B——, of Chamouni, so eloquently depicted in his sermon the unhappy condition of the lost soul, that his hearers were much excited and alarmed. The

mother of the curate, a very simple peasant's wife, who seldom attended church, looking with pity and astonishment upon those who were weeping around her, said, loudly and indignantly: "Ladies, don't believe my son; he is the greatest liar that ever lived. I have whipped him a hundred times, when he was a boy, for telling falsehoods."

THE READY ANSWER.

The Duchess du Maine was one evening entertaining her friends with a play, which consisted in indicating resemblances between different objects. Lamothe entered. "What difference is there between me and a pendulum?" asked the duchess. "Madam," said Lamothe, "a pendulum marks the hours; your highness makes us forget them."

THE TRUE HERO.

Two days after the return of Napoleon, in 1815, as he was reviewing his troops on the Place du Carrousel, he perceived Mademoiselle Mars among the witnesses of this impos-

ing military display. The emperor, approaching, thus addressed her: "What! you here, Mademoiselle Mars? Surely this is not your place." "Sire," replied the talented actress, "I came to see a true hero, for I am weary of false ones on the stage."

NAPOLÉON'S CREDITORS.

A grand review of troops took place at Lyons, in 1815, immediately after the landing of Napoleon, on his return from Elba. A commandant observed to his soldiers, that they were well clothed and fed, and that good living was apparent in their countenances. "Yes, we admit it," said an old grenadier. "Well," continued the officer, "it was not so under the emperor; he was often your debtor." "Whose business is that?" replied the grenadier, "if we chose to give him credit."

THE MISER OF ST. PETERSBURG.

A Russian merchant, immensely rich, who at one time lent the Empress Catherine a million of roubles, inhabited a small and dark

upper room, without fire, furniture, or servants, although his house was as extensive as a palace. He buried his money in a large hole under ground ; and so extreme was his avarice, that he scarcely allowed himself sufficient to support life. He retained, as a guard against robbery, an extraordinary large and ferocious dog, whose terrible barking was heard during the night, throughout the whole neighborhood. This dog died. His master, — whether from avarice, or from fear of not finding another guardian so faithful, — did not procure another ; but, in order to supply his place, he was in the habit of going the dog's accustomed rounds, and imitating his bark, that thieves might be frightened from his premises.

POWER OF MUSIC UPON HORSES.

Horses have always manifested a remarkable fondness for music. The flute appears to be the instrument which they like the best. When the Crotoniates made their expedition against the Sybarites, having been informed that the latter, — who were men of effeminate character, — taught their horses to dance at

the sound of the flute, the former provided themselves with these instruments, and played upon them, as they advanced, instead of sounding the charge to battle. The enemy's cavalry immediately showed symptoms of great disorder; and the horses, in the excess of pleasure which they experienced, danced over to the side of the Crotoniates, carrying with them their riders; who, of course, were very much chagrined at an accident of war so fatal to themselves, as they all fell, by this stratagem, into the hands of their enemies.

HYPOCRISY EXPOSED.

When Archbishop Fenelon was almoner of Louis the Fourteenth, his Majesty was astonished, one sabbath, to find in his chapel no one but the preacher and his own personal attendants, instead of the numerous assembly which were usually seen there. "How is this?" said the king. The prelate replied: "Sire, I caused it to be known that your Majesty would not attend church to-day, in order that you might understand if the people came here to adore their God, or merely to flatter their king."

FRIENDS AT COURT.

A gentleman begging Villiers, the witty Duke of Buckingham, to employ his influence for him at court, added, that he had no one to depend on but God and his grace. "Then," said the Duke, "your condition is desperate; for you could not have named any two beings who have less influence at court."

ORIGIN OF THE TERM JOHN BULL.

Dr. John Bull was the first Gresham professor of music, and organist and composer to Queen Elizabeth. John, like a true Englishman, travelled for improvement; and having heard of a famous musician at St. Omers, he placed himself under him as a novice. But a circumstance soon convinced the master, that he was inferior to the scholar. The musician showed John a song, which he had composed in *forty parts*! telling him, at the same time, that he defied all the world to produce a person capable of adding another part to his composition. Bull desired to be left alone, and to be indulged for a short time with pen and ink. In less than three hours, he added

- *forty parts* more to the song. Upon which the Frenchman was so surprised, that he swore, in great ecstasy, he must be either the *devil* or *John Bull* ; which has ever since been proverbial in England.
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A PLEASING STYLE OF WRITING.

Dryden, who was notoriously poor, was one evening in company with the Duke of Buckingham, Lord Dorset, and other noblemen of talent. The conversation being upon the art of composition and elegance of style, it was agreed upon, after much disputing, that each one of the party should write something, on whatever subject he pleased, and place it under the candlestick for Dryden's judgment. Most of the company took uncommon pains to out-do each other ; while Lord Dorset, with great composure, wrote two or three lines, and carelessly threw them to the place agreed on. In reading over the compositions, Dryden discovered marks of pleasure and satisfaction, but one seemed especially to delight him. Having finished, he said : " There are many most excellent pieces here, which do

great honor to those who wrote them ; but the contribution of Lord Dorset far excels all, and I must confess that his lines are more beautiful to me, than any I have ever read. Judge for yourselves."

"I promise to pay John Dryden, or order, on demand, the sum of five hundred pounds.

"DORSET."

A CLEAR CASE IN LAW.

James the First, soon after his coronation, was present in a court of justice, to hear the pleadings in a cause of some consequence. The counsel for the plaintiff having concluded, the king was so perfectly satisfied, that he exclaimed, "'T is a very plain case ;" and was about to leave the court. Being persuaded, however, to stay and hear the other side of the question, the lawyers for the defendant made the case no less plain on their side. The king rose in anger, and departed, loudly exclaiming : " They are both infernal rogues."

COOLNESS OF CROMWELL.

Some time after the battle of Dunbar, as Cromwell, accompanied by some officers, visited the battle-field, a Scottish soldier, concealed behind a wall, fired at him without effect. With great composure, and without checking his horse, Cromwell turned towards the Scotchman, saying: "Awkward rascal, if any of my soldiers had missed such an important mark as you have done, he should have been tried by a council of war."

APPROPRIATE COMPARISON.

Horne Tooke having heard the common remark, that the "courts of justice are open to all," replied: "And so is the London Tavern, — to such as can pay for the entertainment."

THE LITTLE REPUBLICAN.

At the taking of Noirmoutiers, the republican army entrenched themselves behind mills and heaps of sand, where they fought desperately, refusing to surrender. Richer, a commoner, killed a soldier who talked of capitula-

tion. Borne down by numbers, this brave man was cut to pieces upon his cannon ; and his son, quite a child, was taken prisoner, and his life offered him, on condition that he served with the royalists. " My father has just died in defending the republic ; my highest wish is to die as honorably." His death soon followed that of his father.

HOGARTH'S THREAT.

A nobleman, who was uncommonly ugly and deformed, sat to Hogarth for his picture, which was executed with rigid fidelity. The peer, disgusted with this counterpart of his dear self, was not willing to pay for a reflection which would only insult him with his deformities. After some time had elapsed, and many unsuccessful attempts had been made for payment, the painter resorted to an expedient, which he knew must alarm the nobleman's pride. He sent him the following card :

" Mr. Hogarth's respects to Lord —, finding that he does not mean to have the picture which was drawn for him, is informed again of Mr. Hogarth's pressing necessity for

money. If, therefore, his lordship does not send for it in three days, it will be disposed of, — with the addition of a tail and some other appendages, — to Mr. Pare, the famous wild beast man ; Mr. Hogarth having given that gentleman a conditional promise of it, for an exhibition picture, on his lordship's refusal."

This threat had the desired effect ; the picture was paid for, and committed to the flames.

THE THOUGHTLESS JOURNEYMAN.

When Franklin was a printer in Philadelphia, one of his assistants, a good workman, always began his week's work on Wednesday. "Francis," said once the philosopher to him, "you ought to make provision for the future. If you worked more constantly, you might be able to lay up something for your old age." The workman replied, "Sir, I have made my calculations. My uncle, when he commenced business, resolved to work twenty years, and afterwards live upon his gains like a gentleman. I would rather live like a gentleman now, by being at leisure half of the week for twenty years, than to have a whole week after that time."

THE SEAMAN'S FRANK REPLY.

When Jean Bart was presented to the Court of Versailles, Louis the Fourteenth told him that he was appointed an Admiral. "You have done well," was his reply. The courtiers laughed. "Gentlemen," said the monarch to them, "this answer is that of a man who knows his own worth."

THE DANGEROUS BET.

In 1821 a singular wager was laid in York, England. It originated among a party of young people from a remark made as to the number of kisses which a gentleman could give and a lady receive within a definite time. A young nobleman, present with his betrothed, offered to bet ten thousand pounds sterling that he would kiss the lady ten thousand times in ten consecutive hours: demanding only that he might be allowed the liberty of refreshing himself occasionally with wine. The wager was accepted, and an impartial person appointed to count, that the lovers might not be interrupted. One thousand, two hundred kisses were exchanged during the

first hour ; less than one thousand during the second, and but seven hundred during the third. The kissing was then relinquished from absolute exhaustion. The bet was accordingly declared lost, and the young lover was afterwards seized with a severe nervous fever, from which he with great difficulty recovered.

THE VILLAGE ORATOR'S REPLY.

Louis the Thirteenth, on his entrance into a small village, was addressed as usual by an orator who was extremely tiresome. Bautru, who wished to please the king by interrupting the address, abruptly inquired what price asses brought in that village. The orator, regarding him from head to foot, replied, "When of your size and color, they are usually sold for ten crowns." The king expressed himself well remunerated by this rejoinder for the dullness of the oration.

THE CONVINCING ARGUMENT.

Doctor Johnson, disputing one day with Doctor Rose, upon the comparative merits of

English and Scottish authors, was asked what he thought of Hume. "Hume, sir, is a deistical writer." "Well, then, what do you think of Lord Bute?" "I did not know that he had written any thing." "He has, nevertheless; and one line of his surpasses all in Shakspeare or Milton." "What is that line, pray?" "That which conferred upon you a pension." "True," said Johnson, "I must give him the preference to all living writers."

A REFUSAL GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.

An Aragonese gentleman, having important business at the Court of Philip the Second, addressed himself to the ministers, who deferred their definite action from week to week, and from month to month. Finally, his money and his patience being exhausted, he resolved to speak to the king himself; and meeting his Majesty while going to mass, took the posture of a suppliant, and told his business in a few words. The king as laconically answered, that it was impossible. The gentleman rose, and thanked him for his favorable reply. "You misunderstand me," said the king; "I

told you that I could not grant your demand.” “It was for that I thanked you,” said the petitioner. “Your ministers have put me off for a long time with empty words, until I have expended all that I possess, and your Majesty has answered me at once. May God bless your Majesty.”

THE DYING HERO.

At the battle of Austerlitz, the order of the day, in the French army, was not to assist the wounded, lest by so doing the ranks should be weakened. General Valhubert was among those who fell mortally wounded by a cannon-ball. His soldiers stopped to raise him; but the brave general signed them away with his hand, exclaiming, “Remember the order of the day; you can pick me up after the victory is gained.” He died towards the end of the battle with the most heroic tranquillity. “In one hour,” said he to Napoleon, “I shall cease to exist. I do not regret it, since I have contributed to the victory which will insure you a happy reign. When you think of those who died in your service, remember Valhubert.”

THE STRATAGEM DEFEATED.

The Sultan Saladin, having been conquered several times by Richard Cœur de Lion, and, having no hope of gaining any advantage by arms, had recourse to the following stratagem to obtain possession of his enemy's person. He knew that Richard's horse had been killed under him, and that he was then fighting on foot. Saladin seized the occasion to send as a present a superb charger, which he had trained to run towards his camp. But Richard, as cunning as his adversary, made his groom mount the horse, who, being unable to manage the unruly animal, was soon carried to the tent of the Sultan.

THE ASTROLOGER'S PRESENCE OF MIND.

An astrologer, under the reign of Louis the Eleventh, having predicted something disagreeable to the king, his Majesty, in revenge, resolved to put him to death. He sent, one day, for the astrologer, ordering his servants, at a given signal, to throw him out of the window. As soon as the astrologer entered, the king thus addressed him: "You, who pre-

and to be so wise, and to know so perfectly the destiny of other men, can you inform me what is to be your fate, and how long you are to live?" The astrologer, who apprehended some danger, replied with great presence of mind, "I know my destiny, and am to die just three days before your Majesty." The king, after that, far from having him thrown from the window, took the greatest care of him, and did everything in his power to retard the death of one whom he was so soon to follow.

THE COPY WITHOUT THE ORIGINAL.

The celebrated Garrick, surnamed the Roscius of England, was an excellent mimic, being able to alter entirely his features at will. Art did so much improve this natural gift, that a young artist of London, who could not prevail upon one of his friends, a nobleman, to sit for a picture, besought Garrick to take his place, that the desired portrait might be obtained. Garrick willingly complied. He studied the figure of the Lord;* observed carefully the peculiar expression of his countenance, and imitated him so faithfully that the delighted

artist almost imagined that the nobleman was before him. The portrait of Garrick thus transformed was skillfully painted ; and all recognized the nobleman, who, deceived and astonished, could not conjecture how his features had been transferred to the canvass.

SAGACITY OF A PHYSICIAN.

Erasistratus, a physician who lived in the one hundred and seventieth Olympiad, made himself renowned by the following act of sagacity. Not being able to discover the cause of the illness of Prince Antiochus, and suspecting that concealed love was the secret, he caused all the ladies of the court of Seleucus to pass by the bedside of the prince, while he held his pulse. This became greatly excited when Stratonice, his step-mother, approached. "Sire," said the physician to Seleucus Nicator, "I have discovered the disease of your son, the prince, which is incurable, since it proceeds from a violent passion for a woman whom he can never possess." "How ! an incurable disease ?" cried Seleucus. "Is there a woman in my kingdom who would not

feel honored by an union with my son?" "You would cease to wonder, Sire, if I should inform you that it was my wife, and that I could not part with her." At these words, the king, embracing Erasistratus, begged him to make this sacrifice for the life of his son. "My Lord," said the physician, "put yourself in my place. Could you relinquish Stratonice, if the prince loved her?" "Ah! would to God," said the king, "that my son's life depended upon me! I should be more generous than thou." "Well, Sire," replied Erasistratus, "you alone possess the remedy which can cure him, for it is the queen, your wife, with whom he is so desperately smitten."

THE RELIC.

One of the most celebrated antiquaries of Paris, wasted more than thirty years of his life in searching for antiquities. Once a wag presented him with a brown plate which appeared passably antique, assuring him that it was found among the bones in an ancient sepulchre. The antiquarian was enchanted, and was profuse in his expressions of gratitude.

Attentively examining it, he discovered upon the under side the following characters scarcely legible—POMANS. He studied this inscription for a long time, and at length punctuated it thus,—P. O. MAN S. “Publii Ovidii manibus sacris.” Sacred to the memory of Publius Ovidius. Delighted beyond description with the possession of such a treasure, the childish antiquary gave himself up to the wildest joy, jumping about like one frantic. A friend happening to call at that moment, inquired with astonishment what ailed him. The plate was exhibited. “And do you believe this to be a genuine relic?” “Certainly! and one of the rarest.” “My dear friend,” said the visitor, “I have one like this at home which my cat feeds from.” “Just Heaven, what profanation! sell it to me.” “Why, you can buy,” said the friend, “as many as you choose for three sous a-piece of the trader in this street. They come from the manufactory of M. Pomans, in Champagne, and are antiquities of about four years’ existence.” The antiquary, confounded and ashamed, broke his sepulchral plate into a thousand pieces.

THE AWKWARD COURTIER.

One morning, while M. de Richelieu was dressing himself, two splendid watches belonging to him, hanging near the chimney-piece, a flattering courtier congratulated him upon possessing such valuable jewelry, and begged permission to look at the watches nearer, to examine and to compare them. As he held them in his hands, he accidentally let one of them fall, and in endeavoring to recover it, dropped the other also, both of them being broken to pieces on the floor. Ashamed of his awkwardness, he begged ten thousand pardons of the owner, who endeavored to calm him, quietly saying, "Why should you be so much distressed? I never saw my watches before go so well together."

THE UNSUCCESSFUL MAGNETISER.

At the time when animal magnetism, at its first introduction, excited the liveliest enthusiasm, a young nobleman, going to Versailles to attend the queen's ball, met upon the road a man lying upon a litter. Desirous of relieving him, and not wishing to lose an op

nity of saving life, he ordered his coachman to stop, and desired the men who bore the litter to put it down. The rain fell in torrents; the young disciple of Mesmer was in ball-costume, dressed in thin silk attire; but nothing could check his enthusiasm. He left his carriage, vainly asking the men, who were mute from astonishment, the condition of the sick person. Without losing time, he bent over his patient, took his hands, touched his breast, and went through the manipulations with extraordinary zeal, but without producing any effect. Finally, having exhausted himself by his efforts, he asked, "What can possibly be the disease of this poor man?" "Disease," replied the surprised bearers, "Why, he died more than twenty-four hours since." The magnetizer, disconcerted, drove off in silence.

SUBTERFUGE OF CLEOMENES.

Cleomenes, having made a truce for seven days with his enemies, attacked their camp during the night of the third day, killed a great number of men, and took many prisoners. As they remonstrated with him for his want

of faith, he replied: "I have kept my promise; the truce was for seven days, but nothing was said about nights."

THE IMPATIENT OFFICER.

At Raucour, before the attack of the regiment of Auvergne, the chaplain commenced a long exhortation to the troops. M. de Chamouroux, a lieutenant-colonel, with difficulty repressing for some time his impatience, at last interrupted him:—"Soldiers," said he, "M. l'Abbe only wishes you to understand that there is no salvation for cowards!" Forward! March!" The soldiers eagerly advanced, leaving the chaplain alone, in the midst of his exhortation.

THE UNFULFILLED COMMISSIONS.

An Italian, leaving his country for a foreign land, was commissioned by his friends to purchase for them various articles. They gave him notes for this purpose; there was but one person who gave him the money necessary to pay for the purchased articles. The

Italian employed the money of this friend according to direction, but bought nothing for the others. On his return they all came to him, to receive their goods ; but the Italian said to them : " Gentlemen, when I was on board the vessel, I placed all your notes upon the deck, to arrange them in order. At that instant a sudden breeze sprung up, and blew them into the sea, and I could not recover them." " Nevertheless," said one, " you doubtless purchased that which I sent for." " True," replied the Italian, " because you took the precaution to send money, the weight of which prevented its being blown overboard."

THE HUNGRY SUITOR

A half-famished Yankee lived near a banker, who every day gave sumptuous dinners. The former, at one time, urged by necessity, went to the house of the banker, and stated to him that he knew of a financial operation, by which he might easily make \$50,000. As the banker was about going to dinner, he politely requested his informant to defer his

intelligence until after dinner, urging him to partake of the meal. This the hungry man was by no means disinclined to do, and accordingly made a highly relishing repast. Having finished, the banker hurried his guest into his counting-room, and desired to know the particulars of the profitable speculation which he had mentioned. "Sir," said the Yankee, "It is this : — You are to give \$100,000 to your daughter, when she is married ; I will take her for half that sum, and it is thus that you will gain \$50,000."

THE SOLDIER'S MISTAKE.

Frederic the Great was in the habit, every time that a new soldier was added to the number of his guards, to ask these three questions: "How old are you?" "How long have you been in my service?" "Do you receive regularly your pay and clothing?" A young Frenchman applied for admission into the guards. His figure was acceptable, but he did not understand the German language. His captain told him that he would be questioned by the king ; and advised him

to learn by heart, in German, the three answers which he was to make. He accordingly soon learned them, and appeared before the king. Frederic happened to begin by the second question, "How long have you been in my service?" "Twenty-one years," replied the soldier. The king, not supposing that he could have carried a musket so long, asked, with an air of surprise, "How old are you, then?" "One year, your Majesty." Frederic, still more astonished, exclaimed, "One of us has lost his senses." The soldier, who took the remark for the third question, said, "Both, your Majesty." "Well," said Frederic, "this is the first time that I was ever called a fool at the head of my army." The soldier, who had exhausted his stock of German, was silent; and when the king again questioned him, in order to penetrate the mystery, he told the king, in French, that he did not understand German. Frederic laughed, advised him to learn the language which was spoken in his dominions, and exhorted him, with much kindness, to do his duty.

THE EMPEROR IN THE BLACKSMITH'S SHOP.

During the travels of the Emperor Joseph the Second, in Italy, one of the wheels of his carriage was broken on the road, and it was with much difficulty that he arrived with his carriage at the nearest village. His Majesty knocked at the door of the only blacksmith's shop in the place, and begged him to repair the wheel without delay. "I would do it, willingly," said the blacksmith, "but as it is a feast day, all my workmen are at church, and even my apprentice, who blows the bellows, is not in the house." "It is an excellent method to warm one's self," added the emperor, preserving his incognito. He then offered to blow the bellows, while the other forged. After the wheel was repaired, the blacksmith demanded six sous for his labor. What was his astonishment, when his illustrious companion handed him six ducats. "You have made a mistake," said he; "Instead of six sous, you have given me gold, and no one in the village can change it." "Keep it," said Joseph, getting into his carriage; "an emperor ought to pay for the pleasure of blowing the bellows."

ANECDOTE OF FRANKLIN.

Dr. Franklin, during his travels in New England, observing that when he entered an inn, each individual belonging to the house had one or two questions to ask him, and until he had answered the questions nothing was to be had, employed the following method to rid himself of such importunities. When he entered one of these houses, he called the master, the mistress, the sons, daughters, and domestics; and when they were all assembled, he thus addressed them: "My friends, I am Benjamin Franklin, of Philadelphia; I am a bachelor, and a printer by profession; I have parents residing in Boston, to whom I am making a visit; and probably after one week's stay, or more, with them, I shall return to my business, as a prudent man should do. This is all that I know of myself, and all that I can tell you; I beg of you now to take pity upon me and my horse, and give us both something to eat and drink."

THE PROMISE FULFILLED.

The Viscount de Turenne, passing the night upon the ramparts of Paris, was seized by robbers, who took everything from him, excepting a valuable diamond, which they allowed him to retain, upon his promising to give them, the following day, a hundred louis. On the next day one of the robbers had the boldness to call upon Turenne at his hotel. He insisted upon being introduced, although there was a large company present; and approaching the ear of Turenne, he reminded him of his promise the previous evening, and received the hundred louis. Turenne gave him time to escape, after which he related to his guests the adventure. Every one seemed surprised at such a proceeding. "An honest man," said he, "should never forfeit his word, even if given to robbers."

THE SERVANT'S STRATAGEM.

The famous Cardinal Dubois was very passionate, as well as obstinate. He always ate for his supper the wing of a chicken. One evening, near the usual supper hour, a dog

entered the kitchen, and carried off the chicken, which had been just cooked. The domestics, in much trepidation, began to cook another. The supper hour arrived, and the cardinal demanded his chicken. The "maitre d'hôtel," anticipating the Cardinal's rage, if the truth were told, or if he was obliged to wait for his chicken beyond the usual hour, said quickly and without hesitation: "My Lord, you have supped already." "I have supped!" repeated the Cardinal. "Certainly, my Lord. It is true that you ate but little, being apparently much engaged in thinking; but if you wish another chicken cooked, it shall soon be made ready." The physician Chirac, who visited Dubois every evening, arrived at this moment; the steward met him, told him the story, and begged him to assist him in such an extremity. "Zounds," said the Cardinal, "my servants wish to persuade me that I have supped; I have not the slightest recollection of it, and besides I have now a good appetite." "So much the better," said the doctor; "the first meal only whetted your appetite. You had better eat again." The Cardinal, considering this an evident sign of

health, called for a second chicken, firmly persuaded, at length, that he had already eaten ; and he was, on that account, in great good humor during the evening.

THE OFFICE-SEEKER.

After the famous voyage from Belgium, in 1815, a solicitor of high rank applied to Talleyrand for an office. " You have good claims, certainly," said the Prince Talleyrand, " but you must depend upon some particular act of merit, — some illustrious deed." " But, prince, I followed Louis the Eighteenth to Gaud." " Are you very sure ?" asked Talleyrand. " Certainly I am." " But tell me truly if you were there, or if you only returned ? For *I* was there with him ; we were then only seven or eight hundred, and, to my knowledge, there have returned more than fifty thousand."

MISTAKE OF MARIE LOUISE.

Napoleon complaining once to Marie Louise of her mother-in-law and the arch-duchess,

added, to mark more decidedly his dissatisfaction with her family: "As to the emperor, I can say but little of him; he is a "gauache" (blockhead.) Marie Louise did not understand this expression; and as soon as Napoleon had departed, she demanded its signification of her maids of honor, who had heard the conversation. They informed her that the word "gauache" was applied to a serious and reflecting man. The empress did not forget the word nor the definition; and she made, some time afterwards, a ludicrous application of it. At the time when the regency of the French empire was intrusted to her, a question of the highest importance was discussed in the council of state. Having observed that Cambaceres seemed thoughtful, and did not speak, she turned towards him, and said: "I should like to have your opinion, Monsieur; for everybody knows that you are a great gauache."

THE SAILOR'S REPLY.

As a sailor was about to embark on a long voyage, one of his friends said to him: "I

am astonished that you dare to trust yourself upon the sea, since your father, your grandfather, and great-grandfather perished by shipwreck." "My friend," asked the sailor, "where did your father die?" "In his bed, as all his ancestors did before him." "And how dare you, then, trust yourself in bed, since your father, grandfather, and great-grandfather died there?"

OBEDIENCE TO KINGS.

The Marquis of Pontelima had an interview with one of the last kings of Portugal, when the conversation turned upon the obedience of subjects. The marquis contended that there should be limits to this obedience. The king would not admit any, and said passionately : "If I should order you to throw yourself into the sea, you should, without hesitation, plunge in headlong." The marquis, instead of making a reply, turned quickly to leave the room. "Where are you going?" cried the king. "To learn to swim, sire."

CORNELIA'S JEWELS.

A very rich lady, as ostentatious as she was vain, once paid a visit to the famous Cornelia. The former exhibited her pearls and diamonds, and then desired the latter to display hers. Cornelia, without taking any notice then of the request, changed the conversation, until her children, who were at school, should return. When they arrived, she said to the lady, — presenting at the same time her children, — “Here, madam, are *my* jewels and most precious ornaments.

THE CHEAP HUSBAND.

A young peasant girl of Savoy, having an opportunity of marrying, received from a lady of the village fifty francs for a marriage portion. The lady desired to see her intended, and Nicole introduced him. He was a small, and very homely fellow. “Ah! my girl,” said the lady, “what a lover you have chosen.” “Alas! madam,” replied the ingenuous Nicole, “what can you expect for fifty francs?”

WITTY ANSWER OF PRINCE DE S——.

The Abbe Prince de S——, who was very much deformed, passing once through the ante-chamber of the king, where many lords were in waiting, was pointed at by one of them, who said in a loud voice : “Behold Æsop at court.” The prince, without being disconcerted, replied : “You are somewhat near the truth, inasmuch as Æsop made *brutes* talk.”

THE PRUDENT HUSBAND.

In a village of Poitou, a woman, after a severe illness, fell into a swoon. Her husband, and those who surrounded her, believed her dead. They covered her simply with a linen cloth, according to the custom of the country, and carried her to the burial-place. But on the road, — they who carried the supposed corpse having passed near a hedge, — the thorns pierced her skin, and recovered her from her swoon. A few years after she died, at least so it was believed. As the body was again borne to the burial-place, the husband cried out frequently to the bearers, in great agitation : “Take care ! Take care ! for God’s sake do n’t go near the hedges.”

THE BOLD BARBER.

A stout, irritable Englishman was an object of terror to all the barbers in London. It was extremely difficult to shave him, and he had sworn to be the death of the first barber who left a single hair of his beard. If the razor was not perfectly sharp, and if not handled with the greatest dexterity, this redoubtable man was thrown into violent paroxysms of rage. As he paid liberally, however, the master-barbers wished to retain his custom, and not willing to go themselves, would generally send their journeymen, all of whom finally refused to go to the Englishman's house. One morning, having sent his servant to find a barber, the latter meeting for some time with no success, at length found a bold journeyman who agreed to accompany him. The latter was told by his master that the Englishman was a "hard customer," and would injure him if the operation was not well performed. He replied, "I will shave him if he is the Devil himself." He accordingly went to the bully's house, who first asked him if he knew how difficult it was to shave him. "Yes," said the barber, "and I also know

that I am as skillful as you are particular." He immediately began to work with much dexterity, occasionally, however, stopping to raise his hands and eyes towards Heaven. "What the deuce are you about?" asked the surprised Englishman. "I am praying." "But what urgent necessity exists at present for God's assistance?" "Since you wish to know, I must say that I am possessed with an irresistible inclination to cut your throat, and I am praying for strength to resist it." "What! to cut my throat!" said the man in a furious rage. "Be off, if you would not have me throw you out of the window." "But, my good sir, I have resisted the temptation thus far, and think that I can finish." "Don't approach me," said the Englishman in a loud tone; "I would rather have my beard remain as it is. Clear out, if you wish to save your life." "I am not afraid of you," said the intrepid barber; "if I chose, I would shave you in spite of yourself; but as you prefer to be left half shaved, I am content." So saying, he coolly took his leave of the alarmed and astonished Englishman. On returning to his shop, he said to his master, "You told me

that this man would not allow a single hair to be left upon his chin. He must have changed greatly ; for he insisted upon my leaving unshorn more than half of his beard."

THE LAW OF DIVORCE

The following inscription is written in large characters upon the principal gate of the city of Agra in Hindostan. " In the first year of the reign of Julef, two thousand couples were divorced by the magistrate of this city, by mutual consent.. The emperor, learning this fact, was so indignant that he abolished the law of divorce. During the following year, the number of marriages in Agra was less than usual by three thousand ; the number of adulteries increased seven thousand. Three hundred women were burnt for having poisoned their husbands ; sixty-five men were burnt for having killed their wives ; and three million rupees' worth of furniture was broken to pieces in private dwellings. The law of divorce was then re-established."

THE MAGISTRATE'S REPLY.

When M. de Harlay, the twelfth of that name, was raised to the dignity of first president, the attorneys came in a body to demand the honor of his protection. "My protection!" answered he; "honest men have no need of it, and rogues will not have it."

CURE FOR ENVY.

M. St. H**** married a beautiful Parisian girl, eighteen years of age, whose mild, unassuming manners and amiable deportment captivated the hearts of all his acquaintances, particularly one who left Paris at the time, in order to forget the girl whom, as a married woman, he could no longer love with propriety. This friend, after remaining absent about six weeks, returned to Paris, and wishing to surprise the happy couple, forbade the servant to announce him, and went silently to the apartment of M. St. H****. A violent struggle within caused him to stop; and presently the door suddenly opened, and his poor friend rushed hastily out, a large and beautifully bound book flying past, within an inch of the

fugitive's head, who, looking neither to the right nor left, tumbled down stairs with the utmost precipitation. The book fell at the feet of the friend, who, taking it up, read upon the title page, "A token of affection, presented to the gentle Clemence, by M. St. H****." It is needless to add that he departed cured of his envy.

THE FRACTURED LIMB.

The eminent surgeon, Andre of Trieste, received a letter from his son, who had sailed for America, in which was written the following: — "I have safely arrived here, after a very pleasant passage. Nothing occurred at sea worth mentioning excepting this rather remarkable incident. An awkward cabin-boy, in displaying some silly gymnastic manoeuvre, fell from the mast-head upon deck, and broke his leg. A sailor bound it up at once with a strong cord, and immediately afterwards the boy went about his business as though nothing had happened to him. I was struck with admiration at the skill of him who performed this singular operation with such complete

success." This news astonished the father; the letter was carried to the Academy of Surgery, and produced quite an excitement among the members. They were surprised at the discovery of the inferiority of their talents to those of the unlearned seaman who had so suddenly healed a fractured limb. One of them composed a very scientific work wherein he demonstrated, in the clearest manner, the physical means by which such an extraordinary cure was effected. This curious and important work was about to be submitted to the press, when the surgeon received a second letter from his son, in which he read this phrase: "In my last I mentioned the interesting case of a broken leg; I believe that I forgot to add, however, that the leg was a wooden one."

THE AMBASSADOR'S CHAIR.

A negro ambassador was received by a governor of Portugal in a hall in which there was no other chair excepting that upon which the governor was seated. When the black ambassador entered, the Portuguese asked, without rising from his chair, "Is your master

very powerful?" The negro, before answering, ordered two of his hideous-looking slaves to throw themselves on the floor upon their hands and knees, and seating himself upon their backs, said gravely to the governor, "My master has an infinite number of servants better than yourself; more than fifty equal to the king, your master; and but one like myself." At these words, he descended from the backs of his slaves and departed, they remaining upon their knees in the hall. Finally, the ambassador was sent for to order the slaves away, but he answered, "My custom is never to remove my chair from the place where I sit."

TRUE POLITENESS.

Chevalier Goole, governor of Virginia, walking once in the street with a merchant, returned with an air of kindness the bow of a negro who passed. "How," said the merchant, "does your Excellency condescend to salute a slave?" "I should, certainly," answered the governor, "be very sorry if a slave exceeded me in politeness."

THE AVARICIOUS FAQUIRS.

The famous "Aureng-Zeb," Emperor of Mogul, invited, at one period of his reign, all the "faquirs" of Decan to assemble in one large field, in order, as he said, to eat rice and salt with, and to dispense alms to them. After a bountiful repast to these poor people, to render his charity complete, Aureng-Zeb caused a large quantity of new clothes to be brought and given to them in exchange for their old and worn-out habiliments. The "faquirs," for a long time, refused to give up their old garments under pretence of their vows of poverty; but the Emperor absolutely insisted that they should receive his charity. He had been told that the wandering monks concealed money in their dress, the fruit of their intrigues and beggary. The "faquirs" were at length forcibly divested of their garments, and having received their new ones, a large fire was made, upon which the immense number of old garments were thrown, and after having been burned, a prodigious quantity of gold was collected from the ashes, which the Emperor without ceremony appropriated to himself.

PIRON AND DESFONTAINES.

At the end of the representation of *Metro-manie*, Piron, according to his custom, entered the Café "Procope," elegantly dressed. All his friends immediately surrounded him. The Abbé Desfontaines was present, and wishing to joke with Piron, he raised with affected curiosity and feigned admiration the skirt of his coat, the better to view it, exclaiming, "What a garment for such a man!" Piron, taking hold of the Abbé's cassock, immediately answered,—"And what a man for such a garment!"

CRAFTINESS OF A MINISTER.

When Sir Robert Walpole intended to make a speech in the House of Lords, he always invited, beforehand, the members of the opposite party to dinner. There he was lavish of every luxury which could be obtained, and especially of wines of the choicest description. One of his friends asked him why he wet the throats of his guests so profusely. "It is in imitation," said the wily minister, "of the basket-maker who soaks the twigs which he is to use in order to render them more pliable."

THE DANDY'S KNOWLEDGE OF ASTRONOMY.

A French Marquis, who thought more of his dress than of his mind, invited some ladies to accompany him to the observatory in Paris, where an eclipse of the sun was to be observed by the celebrated astronomer Cassini. The cares of the toilet having retarded the arrival of the party, the eclipse had passed when the exquisite presented himself at the gate. He was informed that he had come too late. "Never mind; ascend, ladies, if you please. M. de Cassini is one of my friends, and he will doubtless, for my sake, repeat the exhibition."

JOSEPH THE SECOND, OF GERMANY.

Joseph the Second was very much averse to display of any kind; his taste for simplicity was such as to savor of affectation. Once, when clothed in a rough riding-coat, and accompanied by a single attendant, he was riding in a barouche in the vicinity of Vienna, a sudden shower of rain came on when he was at some distance from the city. A foot-soldier, travelling towards the capitol, being overtaken by the carriage, begged permission to ride.

"It will not incommode you much," said he, "since you are alone, and I am anxious to preserve my uniform in decent order, as I have this day put it on for the first time." "Get in, my brave fellow," said the Emperor. "What have you been doing so far from your barracks?" "I have been visiting a friend, who treated me to a splendid breakfast." "What have you been eating which is so good?" "Guess." "I cannot tell; perhaps a nice soup." "A soup! Lord, no! better than that." "Sour crout." "Better than that." "A loin of veal then." "Guess again." "Faith! I cannot possibly imagine what you have had." "A pheasant, my worthy man." "A pheasant, killed upon the grounds of his Majesty," said his companion, striking him on the shoulder. "Ah!" replied Joseph, "that must have been very excellent."

As they approached the city, and the rain continued, Joseph asked the soldier where he lodged, that he might carry him to his door. The sergeant manifested much gratitude, requesting to know the name of one who showed him so much attention. "You can guess now

in your turn," said Joseph. "You are a military man, I think." "Yes." "A lieutenant?" "Lieutenant! pho! better than that." "Captain." "Better than that." "A colonel, perhaps." "Guess again." "What the devil," said the other, drawing back in the corner of the "caleche," "you cannot be a field marshal?" "Better than that." "Oh! Great God! it is the Emperor." "The very man," said Joseph, unbuttoning his coat to display his decorations. The soldier fell upon his knees on the bottom of the carriage, and begged the Emperor to stop and let him get out." "No! no!" said Joseph. "After eating my pheasant, I should be impolite to allow you to return to your lodgings on foot." And he carried him home, bidding him adieu in the most friendly manner.

THE WIFE OF BARNEVELOT.

The patriotic zeal of the celebrated Barnevelot being carried so far as to be the means of limiting the authority of Maurice, Prince of Orange, second stadtholder of Holland, the partisans of that Prince falsely accused him of

having attempted the delivery of his country to the king of Spain. Upon this absurd declaration, he was tried and condemned to death in 1619. His sons, William and Rene, to avenge their father's death, formed a conspiracy against the usurper. The plot having been discovered, William took flight; but Rene was captured and condemned to lose his head. His mother vainly solicited his pardon of Maurice; and as this Prince expressed much surprise that she should do for her son what she had not done for her husband, she answered with a noble indignation: "I could not have demanded pardon for my husband because he was innocent; I solicit that of my son, because I know him to be guilty."

THE EXTRAVAGANT ENGLISHMAN.

Queen Elizabeth refused to purchase, for £20,000 sterling, a pearl of prodigious size, which a Jew offered to her. A London merchant hearing of the refusal, bought the pearl, caused it to be pounded in a mortar, drank it in a glass of wine, before the Jew, to the health of his sovereign, and said to him, "You

see that the queen is rich enough to buy your pearl, since she has a subject who can drink her health with it."

IDLENESS.

A young farmer of Britany, passing over his father's farm in the time of harvest, found some reapers sleeping under a tree when they should have been at work. "What are you doing here?" cried the young man, awaking the sleepers. "Are you not ashamed of your indolence? I should like to know which of you is the most idle, that I may give him a crown." "I am," said the one nearest, stretching himself at his ease. "Take it then," said the young man, holding out the money. "Oh! Mr. George," said the reaper, folding his arms, "will you take the trouble to put it into my pocket?"

THE JUDGES OF CREMONA.

A woman of Cremona was condemned, in 1763, to be hung, for having assassinated her husband, who had suddenly disappeared, and whose absence could not otherwise be account-

ed for. At first she denied the charge, but being put to the torture, the unhappy woman confessed it to be true. A few days after her execution, the husband returned from a voyage, which he had judged best for his interest to keep secret, and called upon the judges who had condemned his wife. They treated him as an impostor, saying that "the husband must be dead, since his wife had been hung for killing him." In vain the afflicted man demanded a hearing, — in vain offered to prove that his wife had been unjustly put to death. To avoid an arrest, which was threatened, he was forced to flee in haste from a city, the magistrates of which were ready to commit a second crime rather than acknowledge an error.

THE HAPPY MAN.

M. Laurant tells the following story: — A king of the North was dangerously sick, and was informed by his old nurse that nothing would cure him, except being wrapped up in the shirt of a "happy man." Messengers were immediately dispatched to find this sin-

gular remedy; but they visited, unsuccessfully, all the countries of the known world. No man was found who was willing to confess himself happy. Every one had something to complain of. At length the messengers gave up the search, and were returning sorrowfully to their home, when they were driven by a storm upon the coast of Ireland. The first man whom they saw, as they landed, appeared full of joy and contentment. "Are you happy?" asked one of the travellers. "Happy? Yes; altogether and entirely." The messengers clapped their hands with delight; but on approaching the happy inhabitant of that wretched country, they discovered that he had *no shirt!*

FONTENELLE'S BROTHER.

Fontenelle had a brother, who was an abbot. Some one asked him, "What does your brother do?" "My brother? He says mass in the morning, and in the evening he does not know what he says."

IMPUDENCE OF A CREDITOR.

“What is the matter with you?” said a friend once to the dissipated Lord M.—; “you seem disturbed.” “I have reason to be,” replied he; “a man has just been here, dunning me for money which has been due more than eight years, with as much impudence and effrontery as if it had been a debt of yesterday.”

THE SULTAN OF PERSIA.

An Arab once came to the Sultan of Persia, to inform him that two young noblemen were in his house, committing great depredations upon his furniture, and outrage upon his family. The sultan immediately accompanied the poor man to his home; and as soon as he arrived, he ordered the lights to be extinguished, the villains to be seized, their heads covered with their cloaks, and poignarded on the spot. These orders being executed without delay, the sultan then causing the lamps to be relighted, looked upon the bodies of the criminals, raised his hands on high, and devoutly thanked God. “What favor have you

thus suddenly received from heaven?" asked his vizier. "Sir," replied the sultan, "I feared, from the first, that my dear, lawless sons were the authors of this violence. I extinguished, therefore, the lights, and covered the faces of the young men, that paternal affection might not interrupt the course of justice. They were not my sons. Judge if I ought not to thank God, that I have thus been enabled to do my duty without destroying my children."

M. DE NOAILLES' ADVICE.

The prodigality of Louis the Fifteenth resulted in much pecuniary embarrassment. The king asked Marshal Noailles what he should do to raise money. The latter replied: "Sire, I am unacquainted with financial operations; but if you will allow me, I can suggest one course which must be very profitable to you." "I listen, marshal," said Louis. "Well, then," continued M. de Noailles, "the best financial operation which I can think of is, that you cause public notice to be given throughout Paris, that the chancellor Maupeou will be hung to-morrow at noon, on the

plains of Sablons, and that all who witness the execution must pay a crown apiece." The king could not refrain from laughing, but did not follow the advice of his marshal.

EXAMINATION OF NAPOLEON.

Napoleon, while undergoing his examination at the military school in Paris, replied with such accuracy to all the questions proposed to him, that the professors and students were greatly amazed. To terminate the examination, the following question was asked:— "What would you do, if you were besieged in a place entirely destitute of provisions?" "As long as there was anything to eat in the enemy's camp," answered Napoleon, "I should not be at all concerned."

LOUIS THE FIFTEENTH'S REMAINS.

On leaving the chamber of Louis the Fifteenth, after his death, the Duke de Villequier, royal steward, enjoined it upon M. Andouille, the king's physician, to open the body and embalm it. The latter hesitated,

through dread of contagion, as the royal remains were extremely pestiferous. At length he replied : " I am ready, sir ; but while I operate, it is your duty, according to law, to hold the head." The duke departed without saying another word, and the body was neither opened nor embalmed.

THE PHYSICIAN OF FREDERIC THE GREAT.

Frederic the Great, being once with his physician, said to him : " Doctor, speak frankly. How many men have you killed during your life-time ? " " Sire," answered the physician, " three hundred thousand, at least, less than your Majesty."

THE QUEEN BEING SHAVED.

Before the restoration of Charles the Second, no woman was admitted upon the English stage, — their parts being performed by young men, dressed as females. In consequence of this arrangement, the most ludicrous incidents occurred. Once, when the king arrived at the theatre later than usual,

he observed that the curtain was not drawn up, and sent one of his officers to demand the reason. The manager, knowing that the best way was to tell the truth, went to the king's box and said to him : " Sire, the queen is not yet shaved." In truth, the barber was even then engaged behind the scenes in shaving the young man who was to personate the queen.

BURNING A PROHIBITED ARTICLE.

In 1814, during a campaign, Napoleon suddenly entered the house of a village curate, whom he found roasting coffee for his breakfast. " How," said the emperor ; " you are, then, making use of a prohibited article." " Do you not perceive, Sire, that I am burning it? "

ORIGIN OF COCK-FIGHTING.

As Themistocles was leading the Athenian forces against the Persians, he saw two cocks fighting. He instantly ordered his men to halt, and thus addressed them : " Soldiers, look at those animals. They do not fight for love of country, nor for the tombs of their an-

cestors, nor for liberty, nor for their children ; but for supremacy. How ought you to fight, then, who have all these motives to urge you." This address, simple as it was, produced such an effect upon the soldiers, that they fought with bravery which nothing could withstand, and completely routed the enemy. And to perpetuate the memory of this incident, a law was passed that fighting-cocks should be exhibited every year at the theatres of Athens. This, says Elien, was the origin of cock-fighting.

THE DYING MAN'S JEST.

Gallet, known by his poetry and wit, died of the dropsy. A few moments before his death, extreme unction was administered to him. "Now," said the dying man, "grease my boots, for I am going by water."

GETTING RID OF A FELLOW-TRAVELLER.

Colonel la Croix, when young, was travelling from Paris to Versailles, in a small voiture, with an extremely large farmer, who incommoded him greatly. He resolved to get

rid of him. For this purpose, he soon began to distort the muscles of his face in an extraordinary manner. The fat man, turning pale, inquired what ailed him. "Oh! nothing," said the other. A few moments after his hideous contortions again alarmed the peasant. "Fear nothing; my disease has not reached its height." "What disease?" asked the peasant, in great astonishment. "A few days since, I had the misfortune to be bitten by a mad dog. I was advised to go to the sea-side, and am now on my way." Scarcely had he finished, before his prudent neighbor tumbled from his seat, and scrambled out of the carriage as hastily as possible, almost breaking his neck by the fall; leaving the amused colonel to finish his journey in comfort.

THE ROGUE AMONG HONEST MEN.

The Duke of Ossuna, Viceroy of Naples, travelling once through Barcelona, paid a visit to the galley-slaves. He questioned many of them, and inquired what crimes they severally had committed. All endeavored to appear innocent of crime. One said that he was put

there through mistake ; another that his judge had been bribed to convict him ; and another said that he was there by treachery : in short, all were perfectly guiltless, and, by their own confessions, injured men. At last the Duke put the same question to a poor fellow of more humble appearance than the rest. "Sir," replied he, "I cannot deny that I deserve to be here ; for, being in great need of money to buy food, I stole a purse from a monk, on his way to Tarragona." The duke, sternly addressing him, said : "Rascal that you are, what business have you here among such honest men ? Leave their company instantly." He was thus set at liberty, while the others remained in the galleys.

NOBLENESSE OF A BRIGAND.

The chief of a band of Corsican brigands, who had become famous for his daring exploits, was finally captured, and committed to the guard of a soldier, from whom he succeeded in escaping. The soldier was tried for conniving at his escape, and condemned to be shot. As he was being led to

the place of execution, a noble looking man abruptly accosted the officer in command, saying: "I understand that this poor soldier is to be shot for allowing a prisoner to escape. Sir, he is not guilty, as that prisoner now stands before you. I cannot allow any one to die for me. Release him; I shall take his place." "No!" cried the French officer, in strong emotion at the sublimity of this action, "the soldier shall be released, but you must not die; such nobleness is too rare. Live, and be an honest man."

THE DESPERATE MOTHER.

A poor Italian woman, in 1793, rendered desperate by extreme want, killed her own child, that she might not see it perish from hunger. She was arrested for the crime, and condemned to death. On the way to execution, her confessor exhorted her to take courage. "Good father," said she, "it does not require so much courage to be guillotined, as to strangle one's own child."

SCENE IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.

The following is said to have occurred, during the burning of Charlestown, at the commencement of the American revolution : — In the general confusion, while one portion of the town was on fire, a Scottish soldier of the Royal Guard burst open the door of a house, and entering, met in an inner room a very beautiful woman, holding by the hand a child about five years old, and on her way to the chamber of her husband, for the purpose of assisting him to escape. The soldier, — intoxicated by her beauty, and brutalized by passion, — violently seized the woman, notwithstanding her prayers and the screams of her child. The husband, who was on a sick bed above, hearing his daughter's cries, rose with difficulty, seized a pistol, and dragging himself down the staircase, shot the soldier through the body, who fell dead upon the floor. What was his astonishment, when, on looking at the face of the dead, he recognized his own brother. The unfortunate man saw, at the same time, his fainting wife, his daughter in convulsions, and his brother's corpse. He exclaimed, " Good God ! I have slain my

brother," and fell senseless. A soldier of the same regiment, who had followed his comrade, heard this exclamation, and entered just as the flames, which had extended to the house, were bursting through the walls. He ran back to procure assistance; but on returning, found that it was too late to save anything. The roof of the burning house, meanwhile, had fallen, and all the unhappy family were buried in its ruins.

THE SELF-ACCUSED.

The celebrated Abbe Prevost once gave a supper to a few of his intimate literary friends. After discoursing upon politics, literature and the events of the day, the conversation fell upon morals. One of the guests remarked, that the most virtuous man could never be certain that he would not one day meet with the punishment due to criminals. "Add also," said the Abbe Prevost, "nor that he might not deserve it." Each of the party protested against this addition. "Yes, gentlemen," added the abbe, "I maintain that a man,—even with a good heart and a right

mind, — may nevertheless have the misfortune to commit a crime, which may lead to the scaffold.” All said that it was impossible. “Gentlemen, all of you are my friends ; I can depend upon your discretion, and I am about to confide a secret to you, which I have never before dared to disclose. You believe me an honest man ?” Each guest replied that there was no doubt of his probity. “Well,” continued the abbe, “I have nevertheless been guilty of the greatest of crimes, and may yet perish by the most ignominious of deaths.” All supposed that he was jesting. “I never,” said he, “was more serious. Listen ; I am a parricide.” His hearers regarded him with astonishment. “After leaving college,” pursued he, “I fell in love with a young lady of my own age. She returned my love. We met frequently. I passed most of my time in her society. My parents, ignorant of this attachment, desired me to choose a profession. I was unwilling to do so, as all occupation then seemed irksome. My father, — wondering at my indifference and frequent absence from home, — once followed me, and discovered the object which occupied all my

thoughts. She was a girl in humble circumstances, and a higher alliance was more desirable. In my presence, my father reproached her, as being an obstacle to my advancement. She attempted to justify herself. He continued his reproaches. She wept. I defended her. At length my father, who was a passionate man, became exceedingly enraged, and forgot himself so far as to strike the unhappy girl, and she fell upon the floor insensible. At this sight, I lost my senses, and rushing on my father, I pushed him from the room, and down a steep staircase. The fall wounded him so severely, that he died the same evening. He did not refer to me, as the cause of his death. It was supposed that he fell accidentally ; and I was saved, by his silence, from disgrace and punishment. But I could not conceal from myself the enormity of the offence. I was afflicted, for a long time, with an intolerable sorrow, which nothing could dissipate. I resolved to bury in a cloister my remorse and profound grief, and I embraced the order of St. Francis. It is, perhaps, to the deep melancholy which this first great error of my youth cast upon my after life, that I owe the

choice of the tragic incidents, frightful scenes and gloomy shadows, with which my published works are filled." The friends of the abbe heard this avowal with surprise and horror. They could not be persuaded that it was true ; but supposed that the Abbe Prevost, designing to introduce a similar event in an unpublished romance, wished, by reciting it beforehand, to observe the impression which it would make. They repeatedly demanded the confirmation of this occurrence, and the abbe as often assured them of its reality.

THE ALARMED BANKER.

A very rich foreigner, named Sunderland, formerly a banker in Russia, was high in favor with the queen. Early one morning, he was informed that his house was surrounded by a guard, and that the commandant of the police desired to speak with him. This officer, named Relieu, entered with a sorrowful countenance. " Sir," said he, " I am grieved to have been charged, by my gracious sovereign, with the execution of an order extremely severe, and I am ignorant by what means you have excited,

to such a degree, the resentment of her Majesty." "I am as ignorant as yourself. My astonishment surpasses yours. But what are your orders?" "Sir, truly I have hardly the courage to tell you." "What! Have I lost the confidence of the empress?" "If that was all, I should not be so loth to acquaint you with it." "Well! does she intend to send me to my own country?" "That would be no severe punishment, since with your wealth you could live well any where." "Alas! she has then banished me to Siberia." "No! worse even than that." "Good God! am I to be *knouted*?" "That would be terrible, but would not destroy life." "Is it possible," said the banker, groaning, "that my life is to be sacrificed? The mild, gracious empress, who accosted me but two days since so kindly, can she? — but I will not believe it. For Heaven's sake tell me at once, unless you wish to drive me mad." "Well, then," said the officer, mournfully, "my sovereign has ordered me to flay you, and stuff your skin with straw." "Merciful God! you must have lost your reason, or the queen has lost hers. You surely could not have received

such an order, without protesting against the barbarity." "Alas! my poor friend, I did all that I dared; I expressed surprise and horror; I even ventured most humble remonstrances; but the empress, irritated, reproached me for my hesitation, and commanded me to go instantly, adding the following words, which yet ring in my ears: 'Go, instantly, and forget not that it is your duty to perform, without delay, any commission with which I may deign to charge you.' " It would be impossible to depict the astonishment, the rage, and the despair of the poor banker. After abandoning himself for some moments to excessive grief, he was told by the officer that half an hour only would be granted him, to put his affairs in order. Then Sunderland besought that he might be allowed to write to the queen; and Relieu, after much entreaty, finally consented to carry a note. Having received it, he went out, but not daring to appear before his sovereign with her commands unaccomplished, he proceeded hastily to Count Bruce, his friend. The latter was much amazed at the whole recital, but promised to go at once to the empress. Cath-

erine received the letter, read it, and exclaimed, "Just Heaven! how horrible! Surely Relieu has lost his senses! Run, Count, and order that fool to free my banker forthwith from his fright, and place him at liberty." The count hastened to execute the order, returned, and found Catherine convulsed with laughter. "I have at length discovered," said she, "the cause of a scene as ludicrous as it is extraordinary. I have had, for many years past, a little dog, which was a great favorite, and which I named Sunderland, as my banker presented it to me. This dog died last week. I just ordered Relieu to stuff it with straw; and, as he hesitated, I grew angry, supposing that, by a foolish pride, he considered such a deed beneath his dignity. He misunderstood me, the stupid fellow. Stuff my poor banker's skin with straw! Is it not ridiculous?"

BENEVOLENCE OF MURAT.

During the time that Italy was in possession of France, a sedition broke out in one of the regiments garrisoned at Leghorn. It was a serious affair, — no less than a general mutiny

of the soldiers. The emperor was extremely irritated, when he heard of it ; he resolved to give an example that should be remembered ; and Murat was charged with the punishment of the guilty regiment. When he reached Leghorn, he announced to the soldiers that he had been sent by the emperor to punish them, and that he should do so. "Every tenth man," said he, "must be shot." The consternation was great, as may be imagined. All implored pardon, promising not only to be decimated, but to be annihilated in the next battle. Disgrace was to them worse than death. Murat was for some time inflexible ; but at length was moved by their submissive appeals. The crime, however, was great, and the orders peremptory ; and he finally agreed that three of the ringleaders should expiate, with their lives, the guilt of the regiment. These were soon designated, and put in irons, to be executed on the day following. In the middle of the night, Murat appeared before the three prisoners. "You will be shot, to-morrow," said he ; "I come to ask if you wish to send any message to your friends, and if you desire the consolations of religion."

The soldiers threw themselves at his feet, and begged that their friends might be told that they fell on the field of battle. Murat promised to conceal the manner of their death, if possible, and left them; but soon returning, he added: "If you should be pardoned, would you leave your home and country?" "No! we have deserved death," said one of the soldiers; "it is just that we should be shot." "I wish to serve you," replied Murat. "I have never given orders to fire upon any but enemies. You are my brethren, and Frenchmen." The soldiers could not restrain their tears, and Murat wept with them. "Hear me," said he to them, mildly; "I will spare your lives, but it is necessary that your regiment should suppose you dead. To-morrow evening you will be conducted beyond the gates of the city. There you will receive the fire from your fellow-soldiers, but the bullets will have been previously taken from the cartridges. You must fall at once, and feign to be dead. A man, upon whose discretion I can rely, will place your bodies upon the cart, and carry you to the cemetery. There you will find disguises and money. An American

vessel is to sail immediately to New Orleans. You must go on board in the night. I will send your families after you."

Everything took place as Murat had designed. The severe example was given to the regiment, without the shedding of blood ; and Napoleon, happily deceived, thanked his general for having preserved the necessary discipline, by the sacrifice of three lives only.

In the autumn of 1831, upon the border of a forest near New Orleans, a hunter knocked at the door of a pretty farm house, to crave shelter from an approaching storm. He was hospitably received by the master of the farm, and led into a room ornamented with engravings, representing the principal scenes in the French wars. There he found the farmer's wife and children, who seemed quite happy in welcoming the stranger. "It appears," said the visiter, looking at the pictures, "that I am among my friends." "How," replied the farmer, "is monsieur a Frenchman?" "Yes, my good sir ; and I even recognize upon your walls the figure of my father." The farmer gazed on him with surprise and eager curiosity. "Have you any objection to tell

your name?" "No," replied the hunter; "My name I am not ashamed of, although it can be of but little use to you. I am Achillé Murat, once son of the king of Naples, now a citizen of the United States." "Heavens! is it possible? Then I am yours for ever. Your noble father saved my life." "How happened it, my friend?" "I was condemned," continued the farmer, "while serving in the army of Italy, to be shot for insubordination, with two of my comrades. We were led to the spot of execution, fired upon, and fell; but, as Murat had intended, were not killed. With his money, we all came to America. My comrades died, two years since, in New York. I owe the life I yet retain, to your father's generosity. I have been successful here, and am wealthy. Now if the son of my noble benefactor wants service or money, all that I have is his."

THE TWO BROTHERS.

Therese Balducci, of Florence, was left a widow, with two sons. Already out of the hands of their tutors, possessors of a rich patrimony, enticed by dangerous companions,

they abandoned themselves to all the dissipation of thoughtless youth. Advice, prayers, tears even, were employed by the mother to arrest them in their sinful course of life, but they would not listen. The eldest remained at Florence ; the youngest left home to travel through Italy.

One evening, as the sorrowing mother was lamenting over the errors of her children, the door of the room in which she was sitting was suddenly thrown open, and a stranger, pale and breathless, entered, holding in his hand a bloody sword. This unlooked-for appearance caused great terror to the woman ; but the stranger, throwing himself at her feet, exclaimed, " Excuse me, madam, I am most unhappy. Having recently arrived from Rome, and returning this morning to my lodgings, I accidentally came in contact, on turning a corner of the street, with a person whom I did not know, who became enraged, threatened, and at last struck me. Having patiently endured his insolence for many minutes, he finally forced me to draw my sword. We fought, and he fell. Heaven is my witness how bitterly I regret it. Almost distracted, I fled ;

and not knowing where to go, I had the boldness to enter this house, the outer door of which was open. Can I be permitted to remain here until the darkness of evening enables me to leave the city unobserved?" The lady was horror-struck at this recital. But, listening to the voice of humanity, she promised to conceal him, if possible, and showed him a room in which he might take shelter.

Soon, a tumult was heard without. A man bathed in blood, with a large wound in the chest, was borne in by strangers, and laid upon the floor. The lady recognized, in the wounded man, her son. The unhappy young man had just strength enough to say, turning his eyes to his mother, — "This is the punishment of Heaven. It is just. If the person who wounded me is taken, forgive him, mother, and help him to escape. I provoked him to fight with me."

Saying these words, the son expired, and the mother fell senseless upon his body, from which it was necessary to tear her by force; and she was carried almost lifeless to her own chamber.

Meanwhile, how indescribably great was the grief and horror of the stranger, who, in the adjoining room had heard the noise and had ascertained that the man whom he had slain was the son of her under whose roof he was hidden. Not daring to move, he remained until night in his concealment, when the mother's grief having given place to reflection, she herself hastened to open the door of his room. The young man fell upon his knees before her. "God is my witness," exclaimed he, "that I would willingly give my heart's blood" — "Rise," said the lady, interrupting him; "you have made me the most wretched of women; but I will not reproach you. It was not your fault. One of my servants will now conduct you, in my carriage, to the frontier, and you can take from this purse whatever money you may need. Go, and may God grant you the happiness of which you have deprived me." Such generosity penetrated the young Roman to the soul. "Alas!" cried he, "I shall never forgive myself for having afflicted so worthy a woman." He kissed her hand several times, and in great grief and heartfelt distress he departed.

As the carriage approached Viterbe, the unhappy occupant saw, by the light of a street lamp, a young man defending himself against two powerful ruffians. Leaping from the carriage, he ran to his assistance. The assailants took flight, but the young man was wounded. Having taken him up, he carried him to Viterbe, and as his wound was light, a cure was soon effected. The young man thanked a thousand times his deliverer. But what words can express the joy of the latter, on learning that he had saved the life of the brother of the unfortunate Florentine whom he had killed two days previous. "Ah," said he, tenderly embracing him, "blessed be God for affording me the means of requiting, in some measure, the important service which your adorable mother rendered me. I shall never be able to return the favor completely. Hasten to rejoin her; she has great need of you, and impatiently awaits your return. Tell her that the same person whose life she so nobly saved, has already had the happiness to be useful to one of her family, and that he is anxious for opportunities to serve her still more. His life and means are at her disposal."

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THE JUST RULER.

A young Chinese nobleman, while hunting, was separated from his attendants, and discovered by the road-side a poor old man, who was weeping bitterly, appearing afflicted with more than ordinary sorrow. The nobleman approached him, much moved with his condition, and asked what was the matter. "Alas, sir," replied the old man, "if you knew, I fear that you could be of no service." "Perhaps, my good man," returned the hunter, "I may be of more use than you suppose. Confide in me." "It is a short tale," said the poor man. "One of the governors of the emperor, thinking my house, which was adjacent to his own, a nuisance, ordered it to be torn down, and reduced me and my family at once to beggary. My son, who ventured to remonstrate, was taken from me and sold into slavery. In my old age, I know not what to do." His listener was shocked at this recital, and demanded where the house of the governor was, that he might go and visit him. "Ah, sir, it will be useless; he is the emperor's officer." "Go with me, nevertheless; I should like to see this monster." The old

man said that he was too feeble to walk so far then. "I am young," answered the nobleman; "mount my horse, and I will go on foot." The man refused, but at length was persuaded to ride behind him, and they soon reached the house of the governor. Entering without ceremony, much to the consternation of the old man, his companion called in a loud voice for the governor, and throwing off his riding-coat before him, displayed the royal embroidered dragon on his breast. It was the Emperor Cham-hi, the noblest sovereign in all India. The governor, recognizing him and his companion, and divining at once the object of their visit, fell prostrate at the feet of the emperor. "Is this man's tale true?" asked the emperor, sternly. The affrighted governor was unable or unwilling to reply. "Call in the neighbors," said the prince. When they came, the same question was repeated. "Aye, mighty sovereign," cried they all, with one voice. "Strip that cowardly dog, then, of his finery; throw him into the street; let him wander alone, a houseless vagabond, and let no one, upon pain of my displeasure, give him a shelter." Then turn-

ing to the astonished old man, he added, —
“This house, with its contents, is yours, and you are, henceforth, governor of this district. I will liberate your son. Rule with justice and mercy, and you have nothing to fear.”

A NEW METHOD OF SWINDLING.

In 1776, the “curé” of Saint Eustache, at Paris, distinguished himself by the amount of his charities to the poor, who suffered greatly during the long and rigorous winter. A lady arrived at his door in a splendid chariot, and, preceded by two “laquais,” presented herself to the venerable ecclesiastic. “Monsieur le Curé,” said she to him, “I am a foreigner, and having lived here for many years, am now about to return to my own country. I wish, before leaving, to offer some manifestation of my attachment to this fair land; and your wide-spread reputation for generosity having reached my ears, I presumed that it would be a gratification to you to be my almoner. I have therefore brought a hundred louis with me for the poor of your parish.” At these words, one of her attend-

ants laid down the sum before the priest. This led to a conversation of some moments' duration, at the end of which, the kind lady added, "Good father, can you inform me if any person resides in this vicinity whom you think will be able to give me gold in exchange for some silver which I have in my carriage? I do not like to carry about me such a sum in silver as two thousand crowns. It is too heavy and inconvenient. Gold is more portable, and can be more easily concealed from robbers." "Madam," said the priest, "I am rejoiced that it is in my power to accommodate you. I have sufficient gold in my possession to give you for the silver. It is but a poor return for your liberality. Wait here, if you please, an instant." He departed, but soon returned with the gold, which he exchanged for the large bag of silver brought from the lady's carriage, she thanking him for the favor, and he, profuse in his acknowledgments of her benevolence to his poor parishoners. Having, a few hours afterwards, need of silver, he resorted to the money which had been left; but what was his astonishment and chagrin,

when he discovered that he had been the dupe of an infamous sharper. The bags were filled with counterfeit crowns.

DISINTERESTEDNESS.

The following story resembles that of Damon and Pythias; but the act of Cherik was more noble than that of Pythias, inasmuch as the former was about to sacrifice his life for a stranger, while the latter was to die for his friend.

A barbarous custom prevailed among the Arabs, before the introduction of Mahometanism. Two days of the week were consecrated to two of their false deities. The first of these days was regarded as the lucky one, and the prince of the country, to honor it, granted to all petitioners the favor which they demanded. The second, on the other hand, was an unlucky day, and all who then had the presumption to present themselves before the king, to sue for any favor, were immediately put to death, to gratify their angry divinity.

Under the reign of Naam-ibn-Munzir, an Arab of the Desert, named Tai, fell from

great opulence to extreme poverty. He had heard of the liberality of Naam, and resolved to apply to him. Embracing his wife and children, he assured them that he was going to seek a remedy for their evils. Too much occupied with the idea of relieving his family, he did not think of the day which he had chosen to appear before the king as a suppliant. Naam had no sooner perceived him, than, turning away his eyes, he said, "Why do you present yourself before me on this fatal day, unhappy man? You have thus lost your life, and it is not in my power to save you."

Tai, perceiving his death certain, threw himself at the feet of the prince, and begged him to defer his punishment for a few hours. "Allow me," said he, "to embrace my wife and children once more, and to carry them provisions, without which they will die of hunger. You are too just to make the innocent suffer with the guilty. I swear that I will return before the setting of the sun, and I will then submit to the punishment of death without a murmur. The prince, moved by the entreaties of Tai, resolved to grant him the reprieve which he requested, but added a

condition, which rendered the favor apparently unavailable and worthless. This was, that his liberty would be granted him, on condition that he procured a substitute to die for him, in case he should forfeit his promise to return at the hour appointed. Tai, almost in despair, addressed most urgently but vainly, all those who surrounded the prince. No one would expose himself to the danger. At length he turned to Cherek-Benadi, the favorite of the monarch, and urged him, with tears in his eyes, saying, "And you, Cherek, whose soul is so noble; may I not hope, through you, to see once more my family? Will you refuse to guaranty my return? I call to witness both gods and men, that I will be here again before sunset." Cherek instantly replied, "I believe you, my poor fellow, and do not hesitate to insure your return with my own life." Then turning to the prince, he added, "Release this unfortunate man. I will stand in his place." Tai, having received liberty to depart, hastened to join his wife and children; and while with them, the time passed so insensibly that the sun was near its setting before he had thought of bidding his last adieu.

Meanwhile, the time drawing near, and Tai not appearing, Cherek had been conducted to the place of execution, and bound with cords. The executioner had already raised his axe to strike off his head, when a man was seen running quickly towards the spot. The execution was suspended. It was Tai himself, who arrived, breathless, and covered with dust. He was horror-struck on perceiving Cherek upon the scaffold, prepared to submit to death on his account; he flew towards him, removed his bonds, and putting himself in his place, said, "I die contented, since I have now arrived in time to save you."

This moving spectacle brought tears from all eyes; and the king himself could not restrain his own. "I have never seen any thing so extraordinary as this," cried he, in a transport of admiration. "Thou, Tai, art a model of fidelity to your promise; and thou, Cherek, excelled all men in greatness of soul. I will abolish, for your sakes, an odious custom. My subjects may henceforth have access to me at all times, without fear." The monarch then loaded Tai with benefits, and Cherek became more dear to him than before.

EXTRAORDINARY VILLAINY.

Maria de Rosan, the handsomest woman of her time, and whom Mignard painted as a model of perfect feminine beauty, being left a widow when at the age of nineteen, was married, the second time, to the Marquis de Gange. The jealousy of her brutal husband soon rendered her miserable. The Abbe and the Chevalier de Gange, brothers of the marquis, and the greatest scoundrels that ever lived, became enamored of the marchioness. They dared to make infamous proposals, which this virtuous woman rejected with disdain. Irritated at the refusal, both united against her, determined on revenge. They filled the husband's mind with suspicions, and inflamed his jealousy to such a pitch, that he consented to leave his honor in their hands. He took a journey to Avignon, seventy miles distant, leaving his unfortunate wife alone at his chateau. The two brothers, finding themselves free to act, did not delay the gratification of their resentment. One day, when the marchioness kept her room on account of slight indisposition, the abbe entered her chamber, with a pistol in one hand, and holding

in the other a cup containing a poisonous compound. He was followed by the chevalier, armed with a sword ; "Madam," said the abbe, "you must now die ; you can choose either the pistol, the sword, or the poison." "Die ?" cried the marchioness, "what crime have I committed ? Where is my husband ?" "He has left you in our charge," they replied. "Come, choose quickly, or we shall choose for you." Finding all resistance fruitless, she received the cup which contained the fatal beverage, and drank it with the pistol at her throat. Then, perceiving their intention to remain, she said, "Are you satisfied ? Now, as you surely cannot have the barbarity to destroy my soul, in God's name, go for a confessor." They retired, shutting the door after them, and one went to seek a priest who was in their service, while the other guarded the door. Meanwhile the marchioness rose, and ran to the window which overlooked the court-yard of the chateau. She hesitated a moment, and then threw herself headlong from the window. At that instant, the abbe, who was attentively listening on the outside of the door, hearing a noise, rushed in, and caught

hold of the bottom of her robe, which giving way in his grasp, the marchioness fell to the ground, but fortunately alighting on her feet, sustained no serious injury. The abbe, greatly enraged, instantly seized a large pitcher, filled with water, and threw it, with all his force, down upon the unfortunate woman, which happily fell at her side, without hitting her. She succeeded in obtaining from the broken fragments water sufficient to produce vomiting; after which, feeling relieved, she fled from the spot where she had fallen as fast as her feebleness permitted. The brothers, not daring to jump after her, were obliged to descend long winding stair-cases, and pass through many rooms, before reaching the outer door, thus granting time to their defenceless sister-in-law, for flight. She reached a cottage three hundred paces from the chateau, owned by a peasant named Duprats, and was there pursued by the brothers. The latter informed the astonished peasants, that the fugitive was insane, and must be carried back to confinement. Her dishevelled hair, torn dress and wild looks made the story seem credible. A young girl brought her some

water in a glass, which she had begged for ; and as she raised it to her lips, the chevalier, fearing that the poison might be ejected, broke the glass with his sword, and then, to terminate all further doubt, quickly stabbed the marchioness to the heart. The act was so sudden and unlooked for that before the bystanders could recover from their astonishment, the unhappy victim had breathed her last, and the two villains had escaped. On a post-mortem examination, it was ascertained that the poison would soon have produced death without the sword, for the stomach had been burned nearly through by the virulence of the poison, and the brain had become black as ink.

The murderers were sought for in every direction, but all search was fruitless. They had left the kingdom, and were never afterwards heard of in France.



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